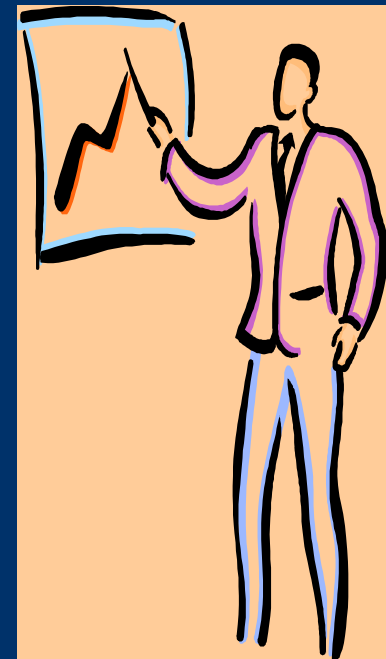


# ***Best Practices in Drug Courts***

**Shannon M. Carey, Ph.D.  
Douglas B. Marlowe,  
J.D., Ph.D.**



***National Association of Drug Court  
Professionals***



# ***Meta-Analyses***

<b>Citation</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Number of Drug Courts</b>	<b>Crime Reduced on Avg. by . . .</b>
<b>Wilson et al. (2006)</b>	<b>Campbell Collaborative</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>14% to 26%</b>
<b>Latimer et al. (2006)</b>	<b>Canada Dept. of Justice</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Shaffer (2006)</b>	<b>University of Nevada</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Lowenkamp et al. (2005)</b>	<b>University of Cincinnati</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Aos et al. (2006)</b>	<b>Washington State Inst. for Public Policy</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>8%</b>

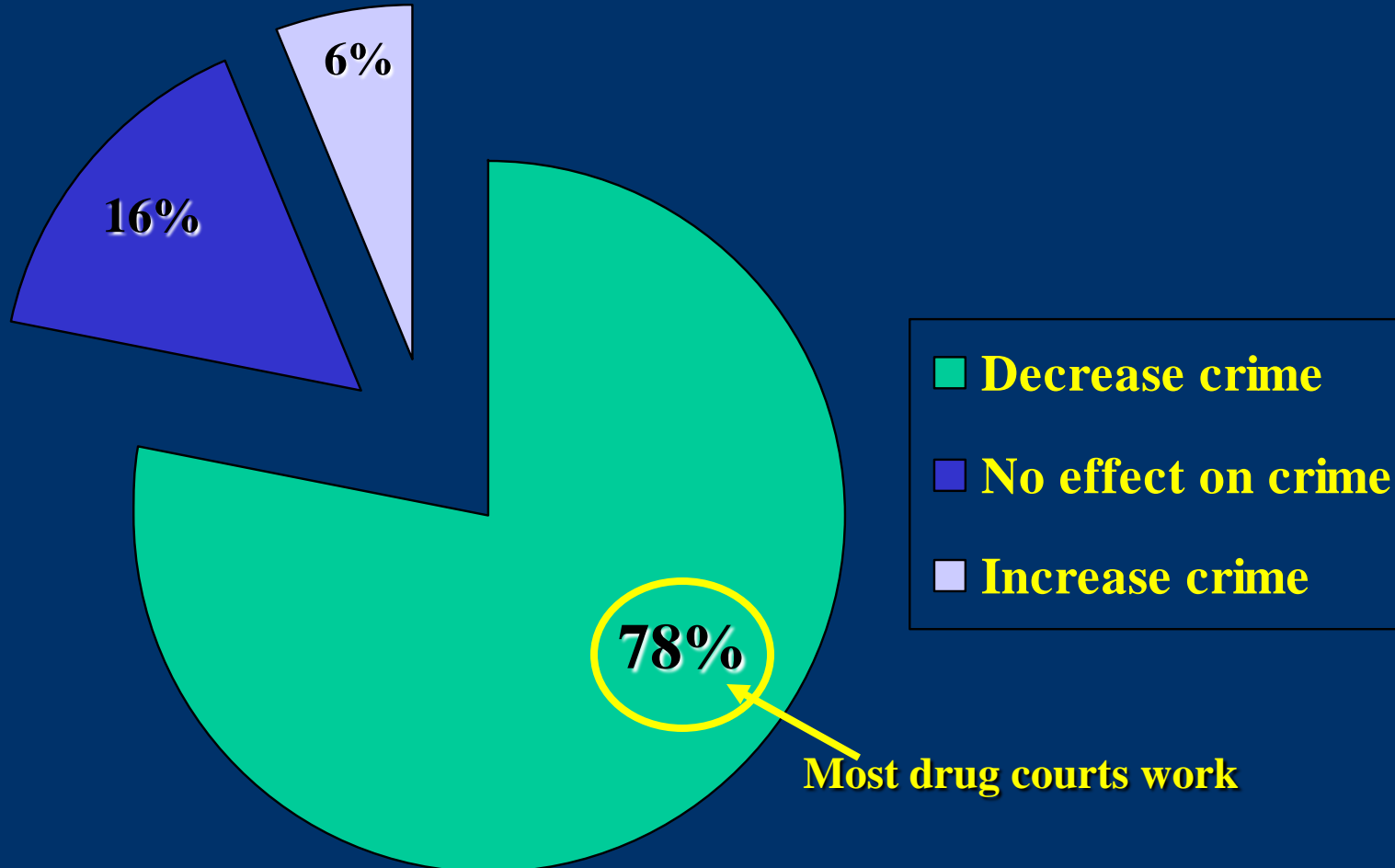
# Cost Analyses

Citation	No. Drug Courts	<u>Avg.</u> Benefit Per \$1 Invested	<u>Avg.</u> Cost Saving Per Client
Loman (2004)	1 (St. Louis)	\$2.80 to \$6.32	\$2,615 to \$7,707
Finigan et al. (2007)	1 (Portland, OR)	\$2.63	\$11,000
Carey et al. (2006)	9 (California)	\$3.50	\$6,744 to \$12,218
Carey & Waller (2011)	25 (Oregon)	\$4.02	\$85 to \$10,155
<b>Aos et al. (2006)</b>	<b>National Data</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$4,767</b>
<b>Bhati et al. (2008)</b>	<b>National Data</b>	<b>\$2.21</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# ***Variable Effects***

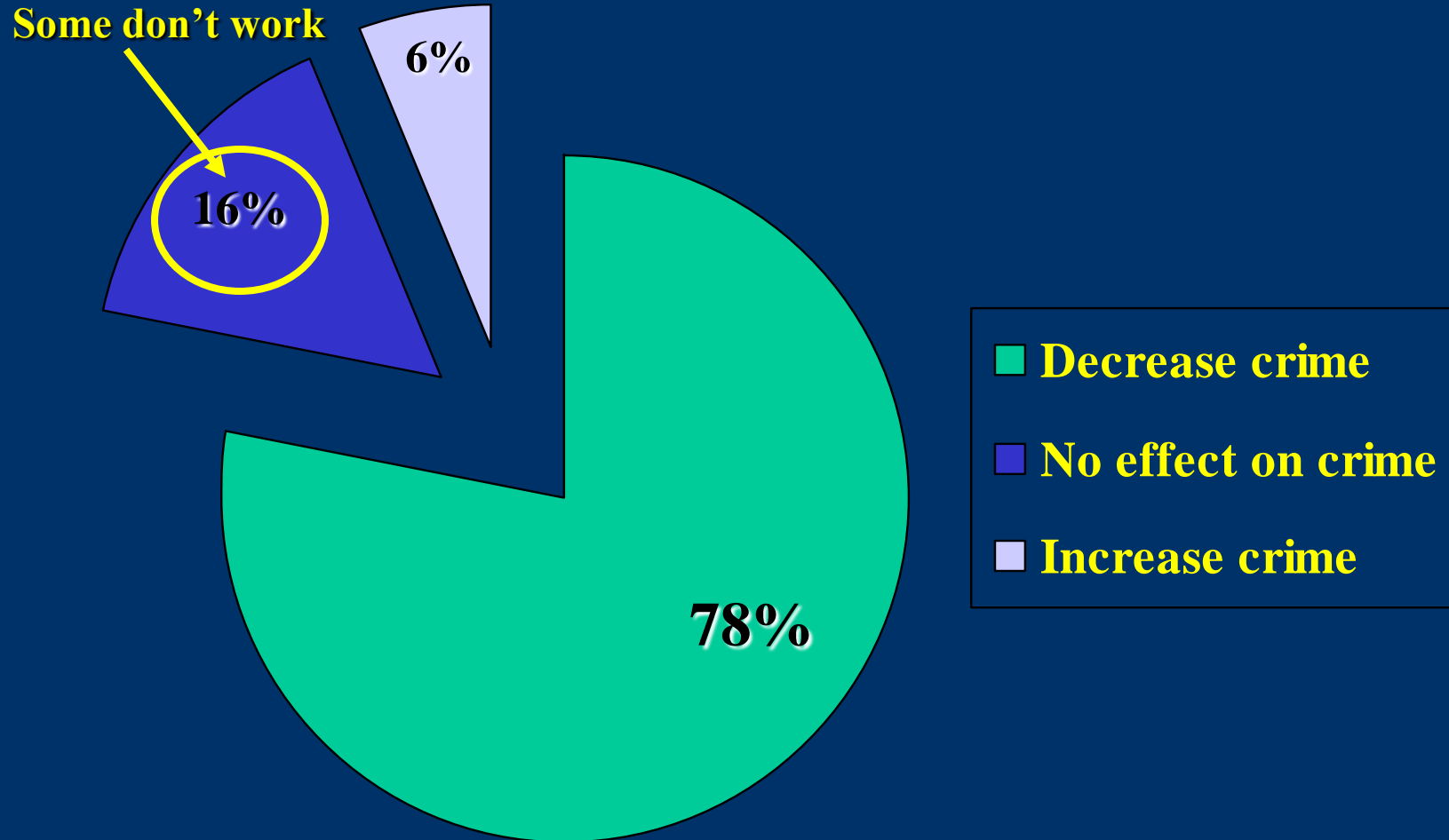
(Wilson et al., 2006; Lowenkamp et al., 2005; Shaffer, 2006)

# ***Variable Effects***



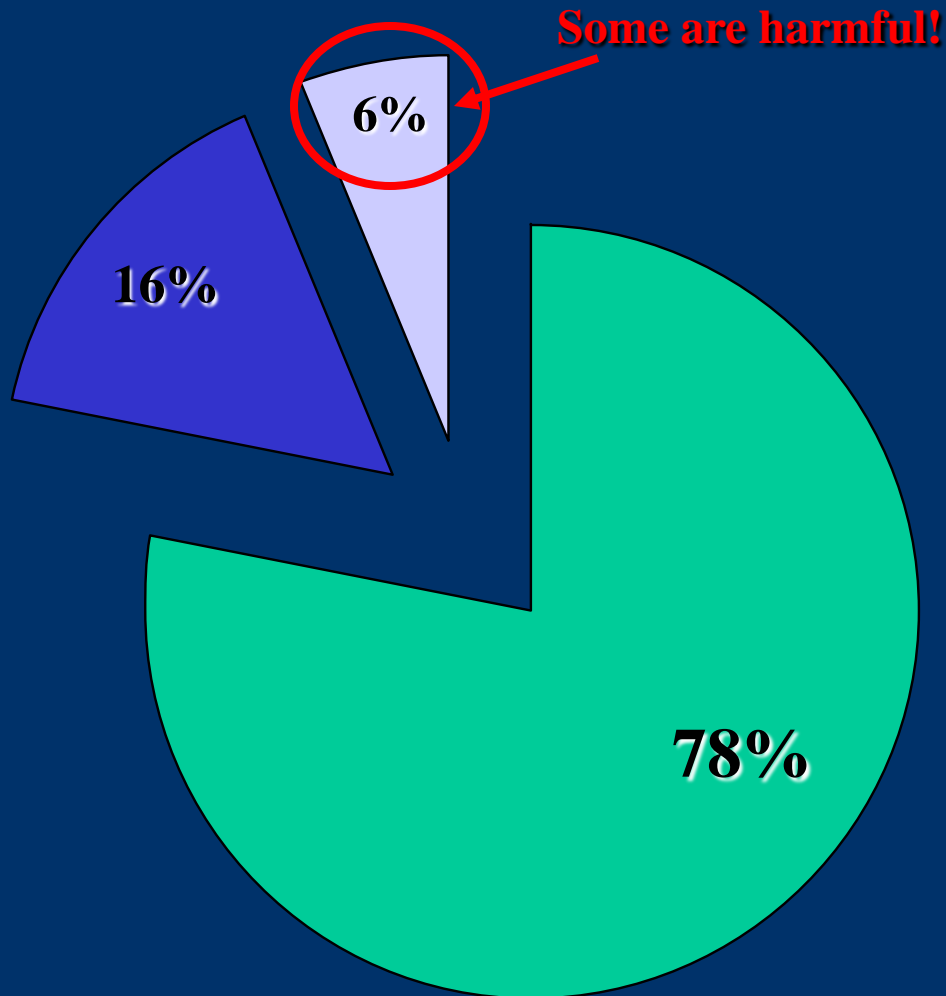
(Wilson et al., 2006; Lowenkamp et al., 2005; Shaffer, 2006)

# ***Variable Effects***



(Wilson et al., 2006; Lowenkamp et al., 2005; Shaffer, 2006)

# Variable Effects



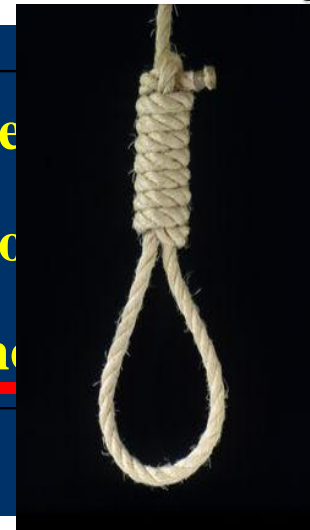
Let's do the math:

2,559 drug courts (as of 12/31/10)

x .06

= 154 harmful drug courts!

■ **De**  
■ **No**  
■ **In**



another 409 ineffective drug courts

# Best Practices Research

\*Shannon Carey et al. (In Review). *What works? The 10 Key Components of Drug Courts: Research Based Best Practices*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

\*Shannon Carey et al. (2008). *Exploring the key components of drug courts: A comparative study of 18 adult drug courts on practices, outcomes and costs*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

\*Shannon Carey et al. (2008). *Drug courts and state mandated drug treatment programs: Outcomes, costs and consequences*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

\*Michael Finigan et al. (2007). *The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

Deborah Shaffer (2006). *Reconsidering drug court effectiveness: A meta-analytic review*. Las Vegas, NV: Dept. of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada.



# Best Practices Research

Practices Presented Show Either:

- ☐ Significant reductions in recidivism
- ☐ Significant increases in cost savings
- ☐ or both

# Key Component #1

*“Realization of these [rehabilitation] goals requires a **team approach**, including cooperation and collaboration of the judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation authorities, other corrections personnel, law enforcement, pretrial services agencies, TASC programs, evaluators, an array of local service providers, and the greater community.”*

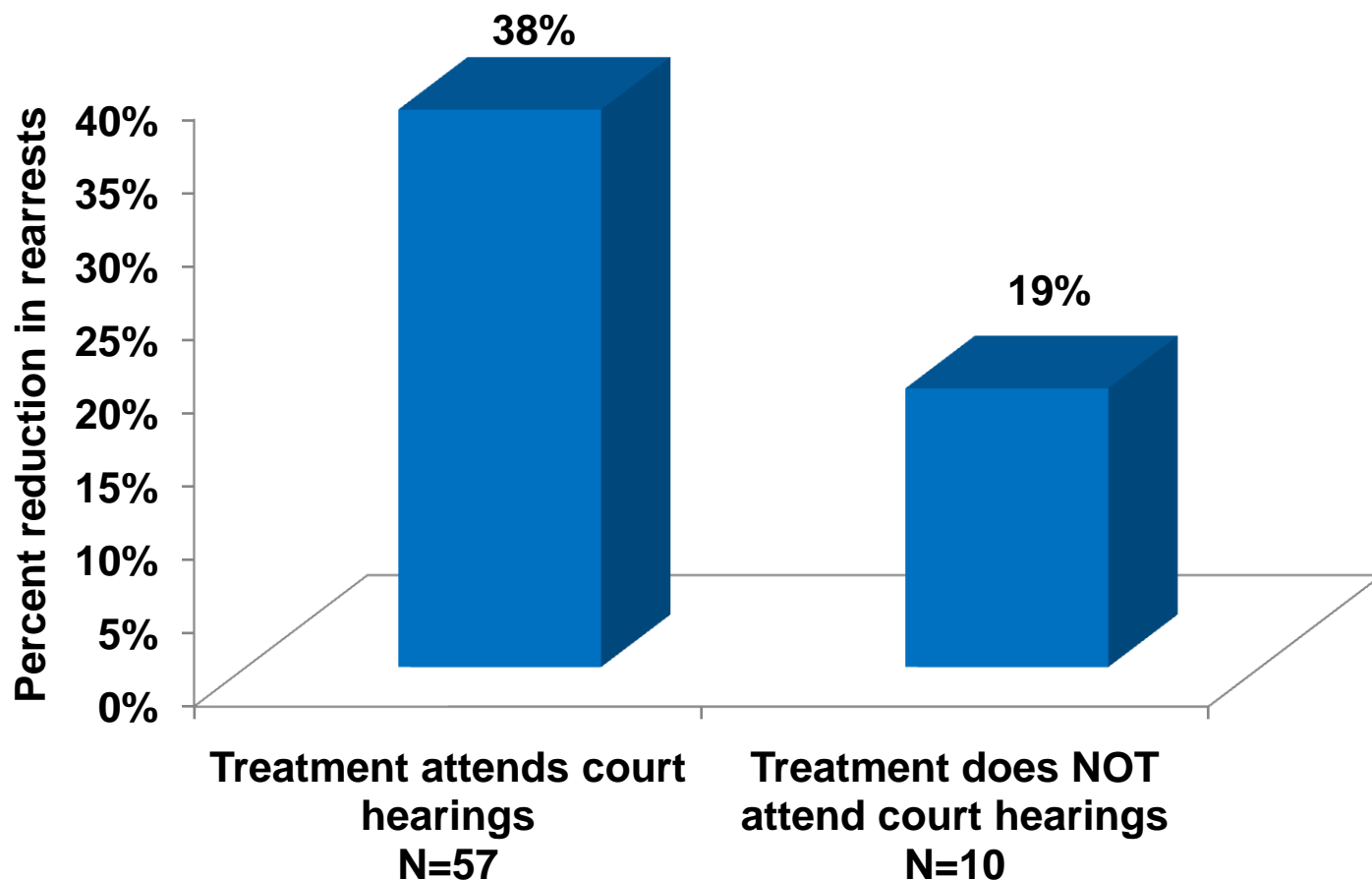
# Team Involvement

- T/F:  
Treatment providers are not needed at court sessions



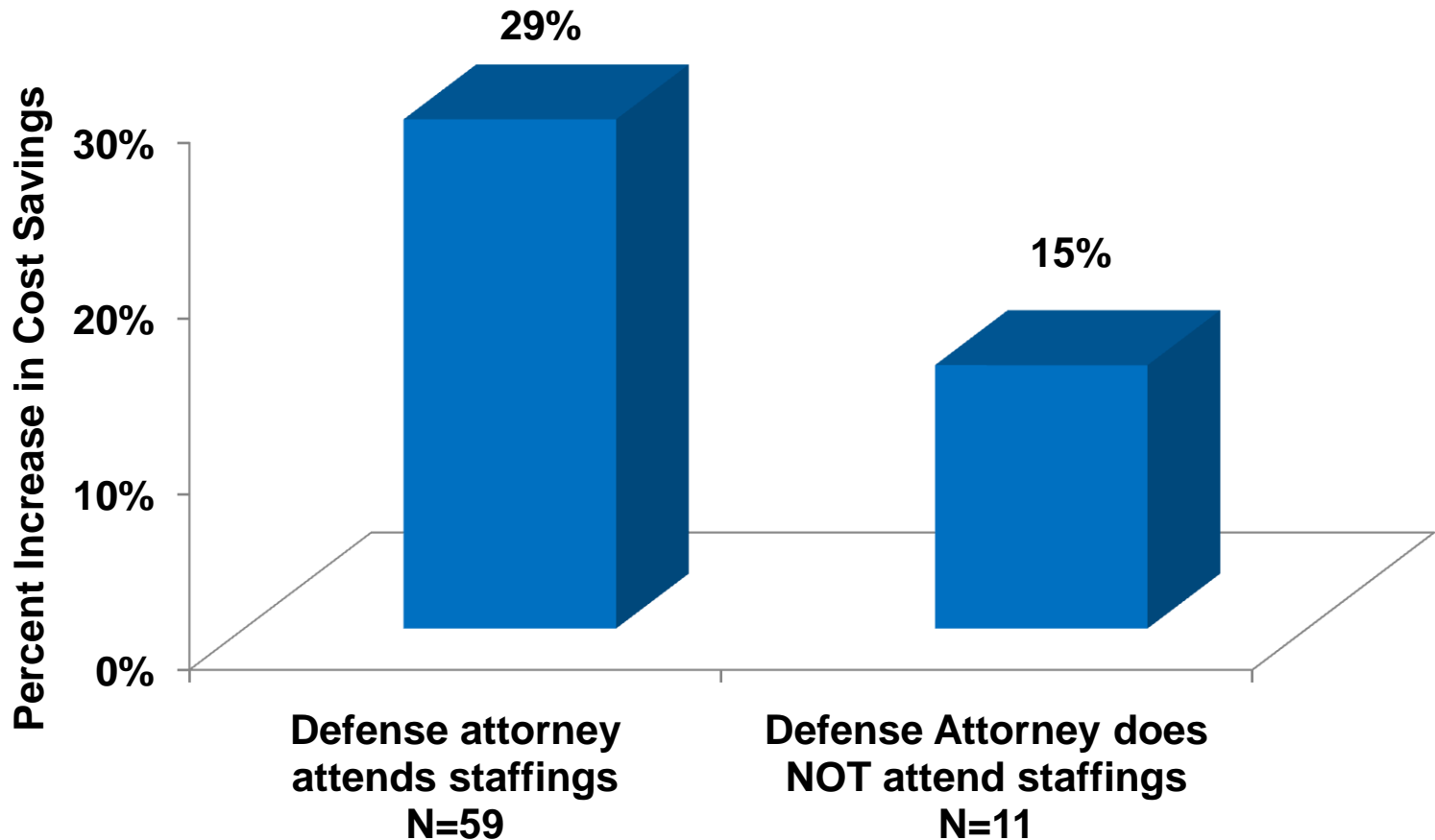
- Is it really important for the attorneys to attend staffings?

# Drug Courts Where a Treatment Representative Attends Court Hearings had 100% greater reductions in recidivism



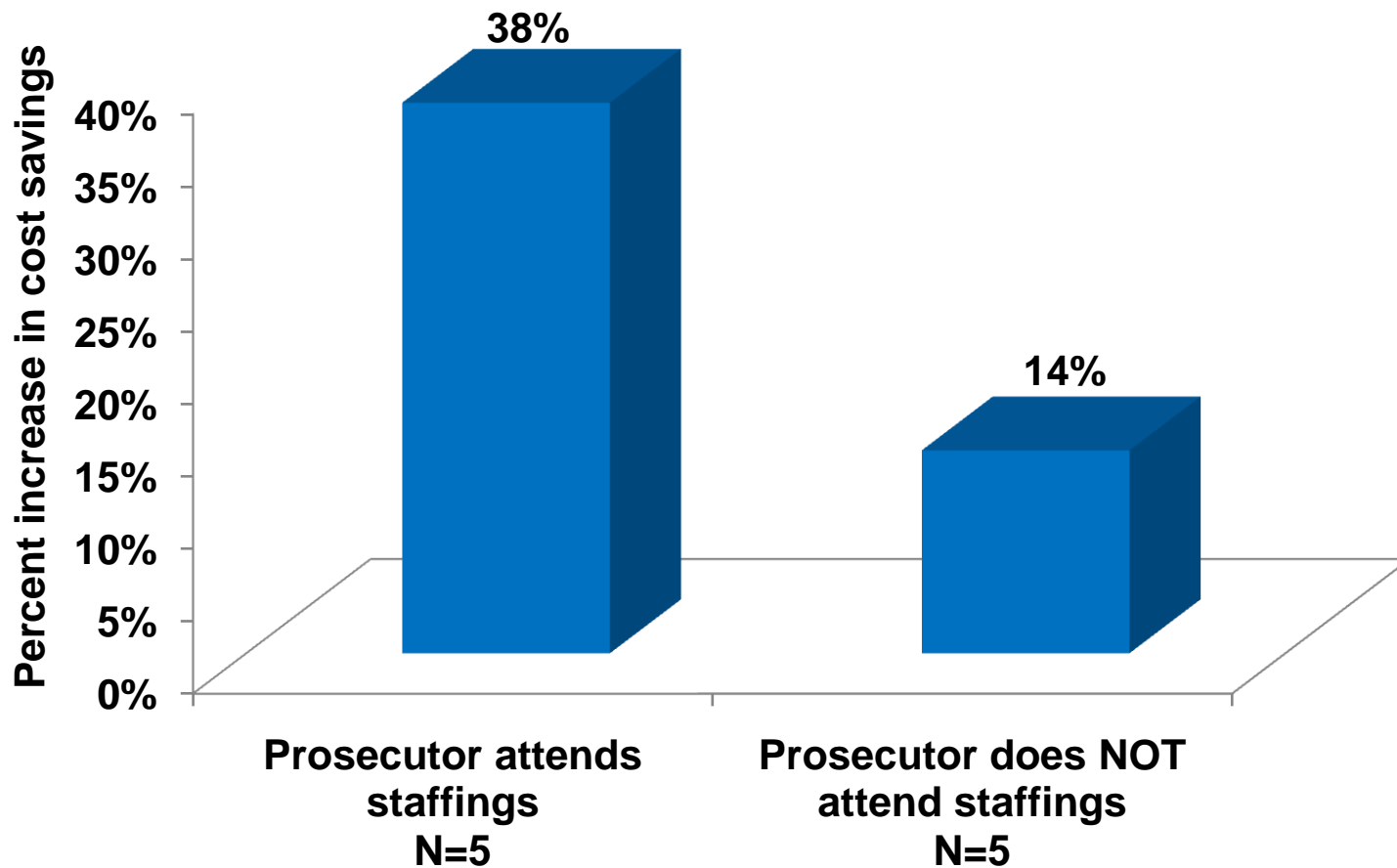
**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .10$**

# Drug Courts Where the Defense Attorney Attends Drug Court Team Meetings (Staffings) had a 93% Higher Cost Savings



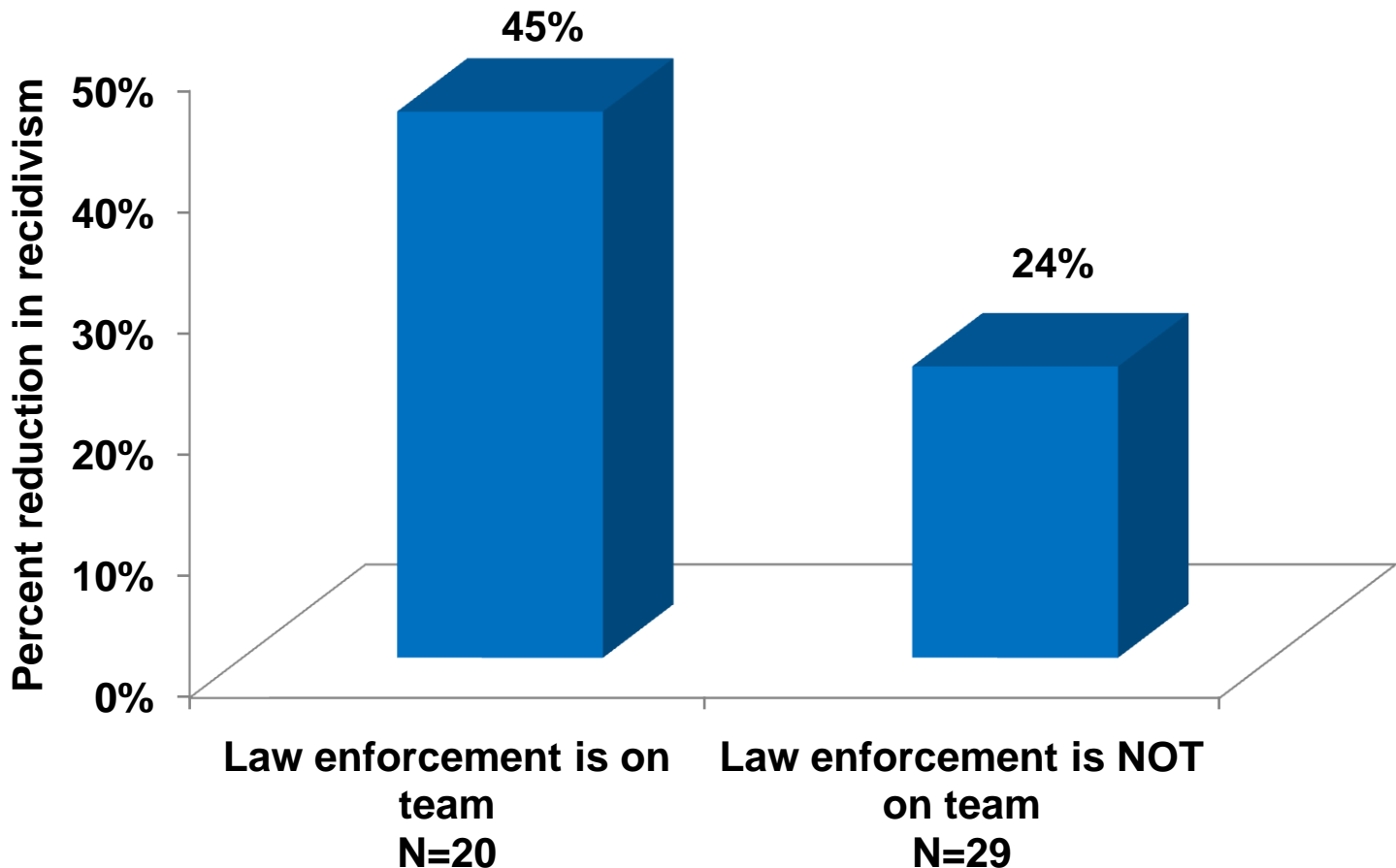
Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$

## Drug Courts Where the Prosecutor Attends Staffings had a 171% Higher Cost Savings



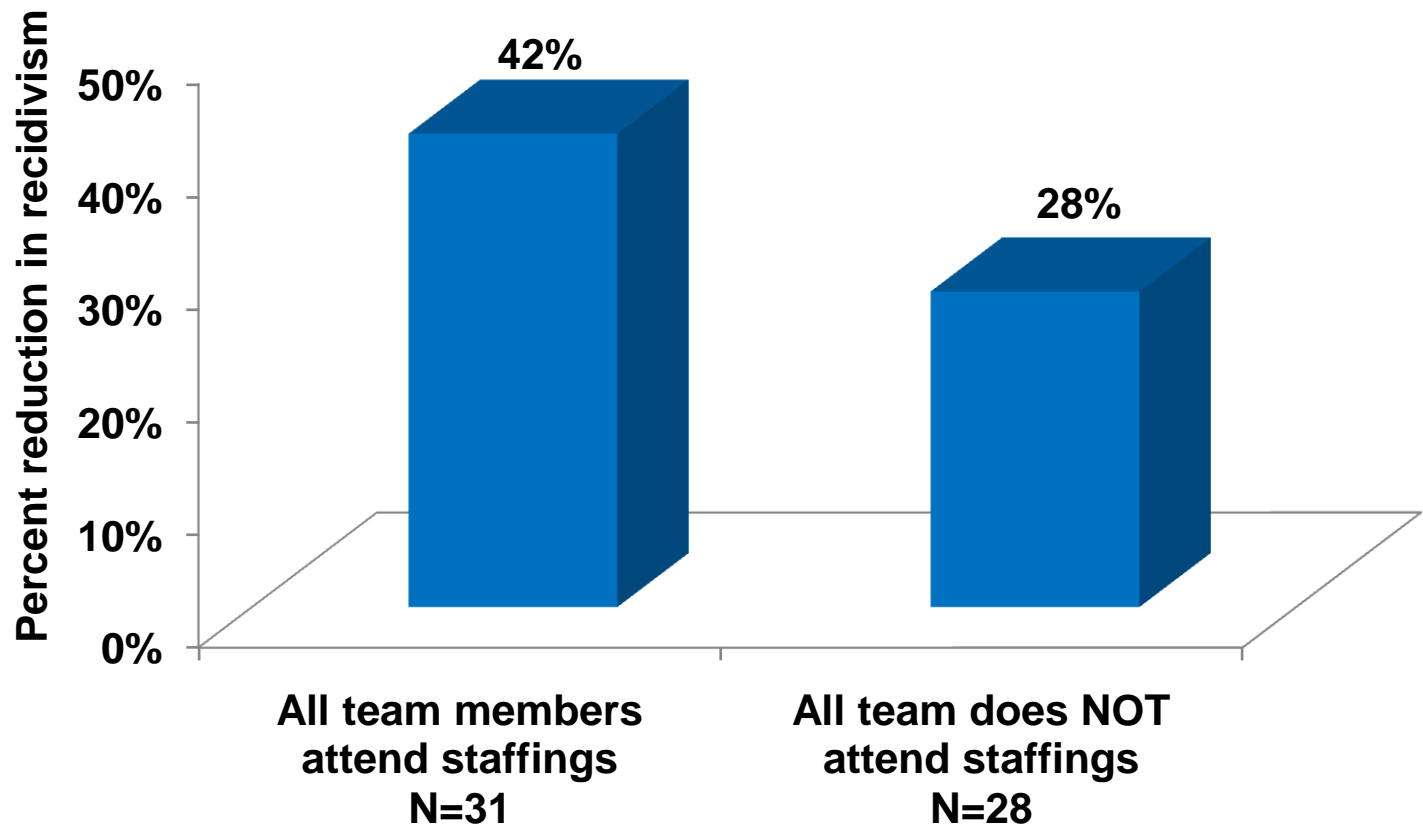
**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

**Drug Courts where Law Enforcement is a member of the  
drug court team had  
88% greater reductions in recidivism**



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

## Drug Courts where all team members attended staffings had 50% greater reductions in recidivism



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

**Note 2: "Team Members" = Judge, Both Attorneys, Treatment Provider, Coordinator, Probation**



## Key Component #3

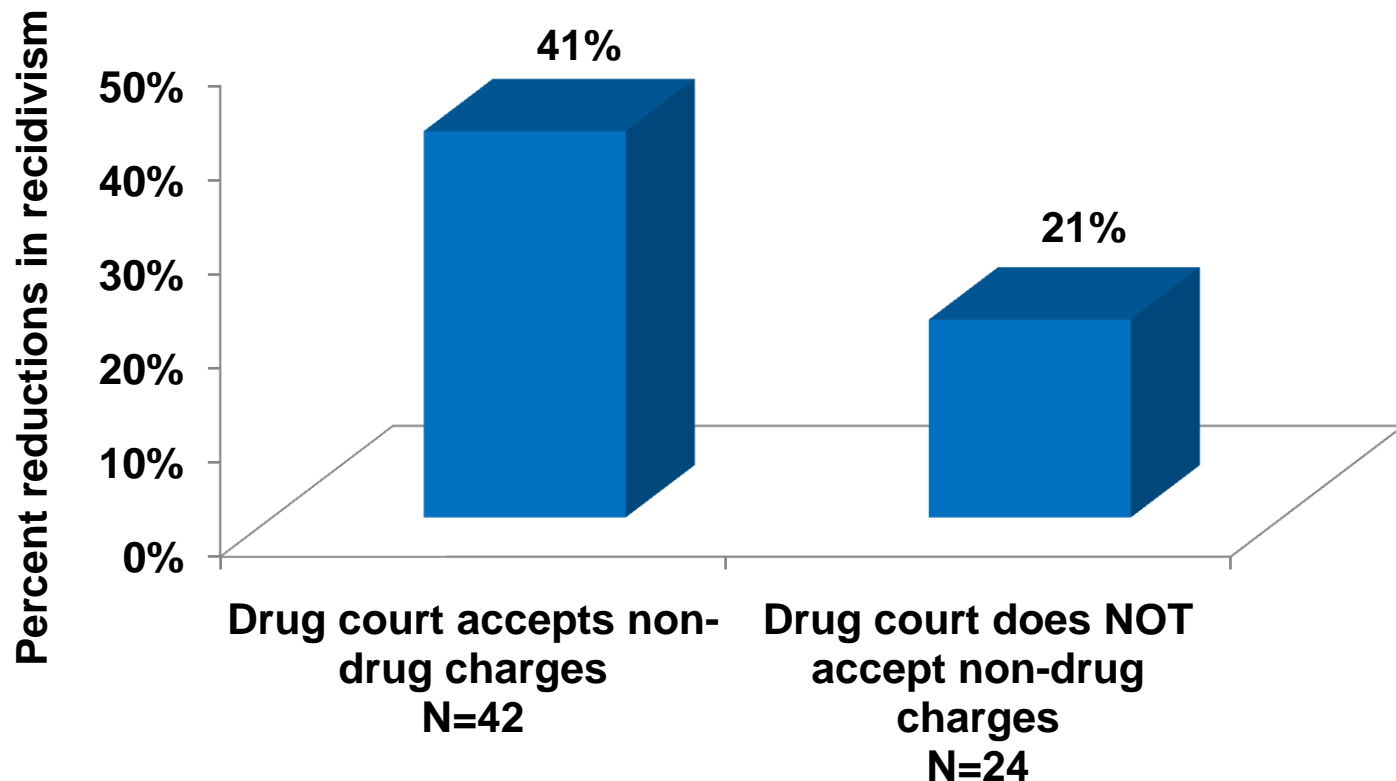
***“Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.”***

# Eligibility Criteria

**Does allowing non-drug charges (e.g., violence) threaten public safety?**



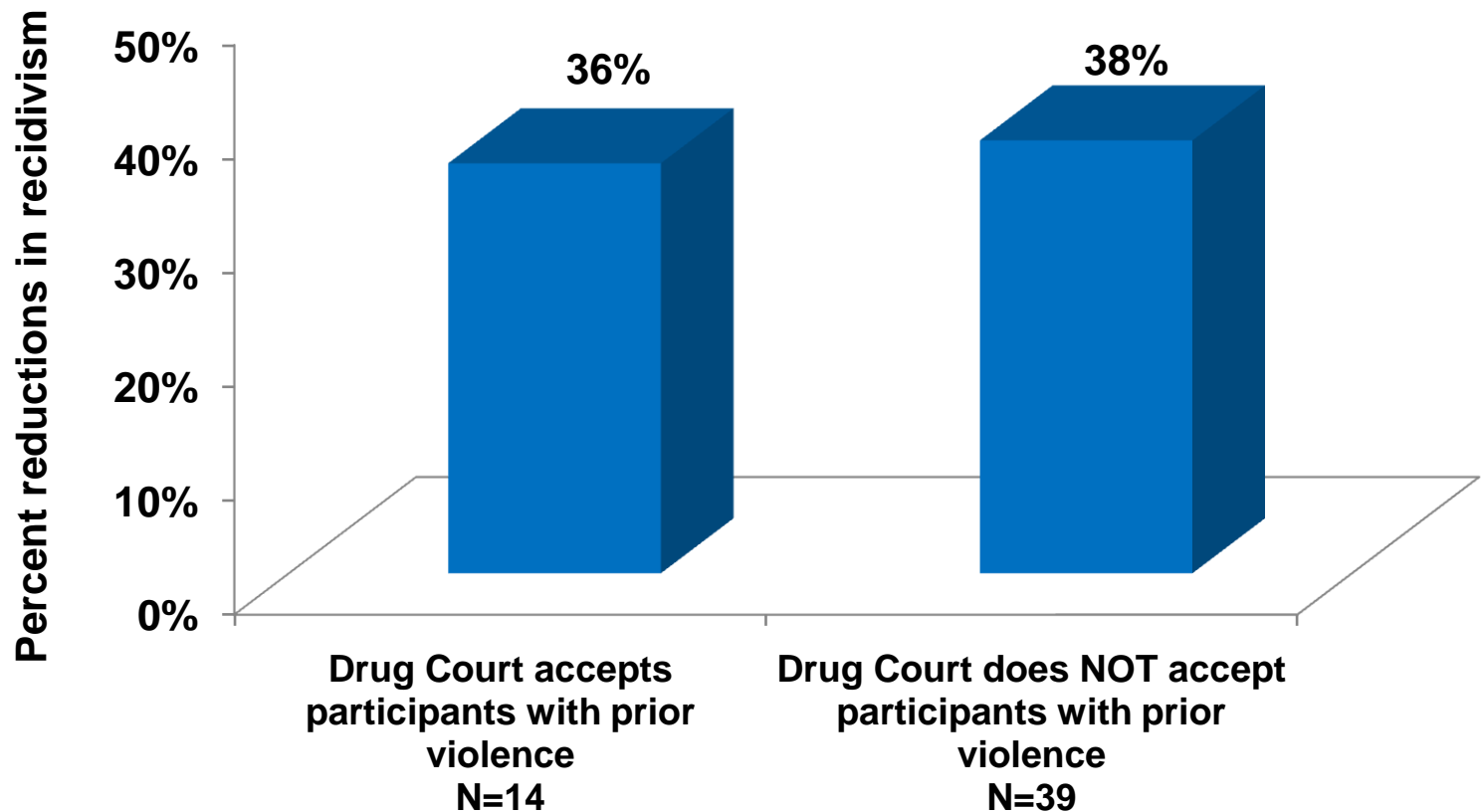
# Drug Courts That Accepted Participants With Non-Drug Charges had 98% Greater Reductions in Recidivism



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

**Note 2: Non-drug charges include property, prostitution, forgery, etc.**

# Drug Courts That Accepted Participants with Prior Violence Had Equal Reductions in Recidivism



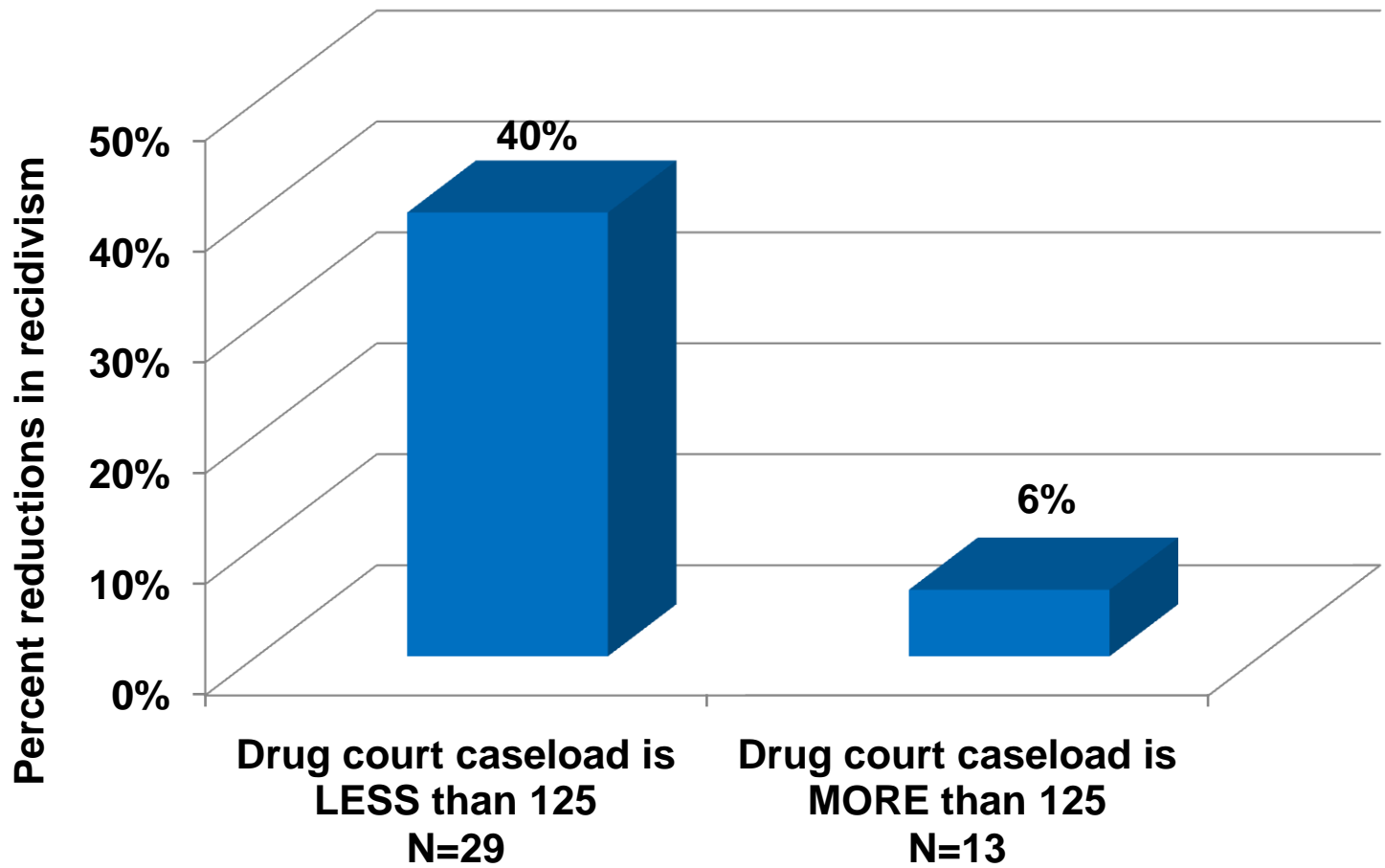
**Note: Difference is NOT significant**

# Program Caseload

**Is there a limit to how many participants can you treat effectively?**

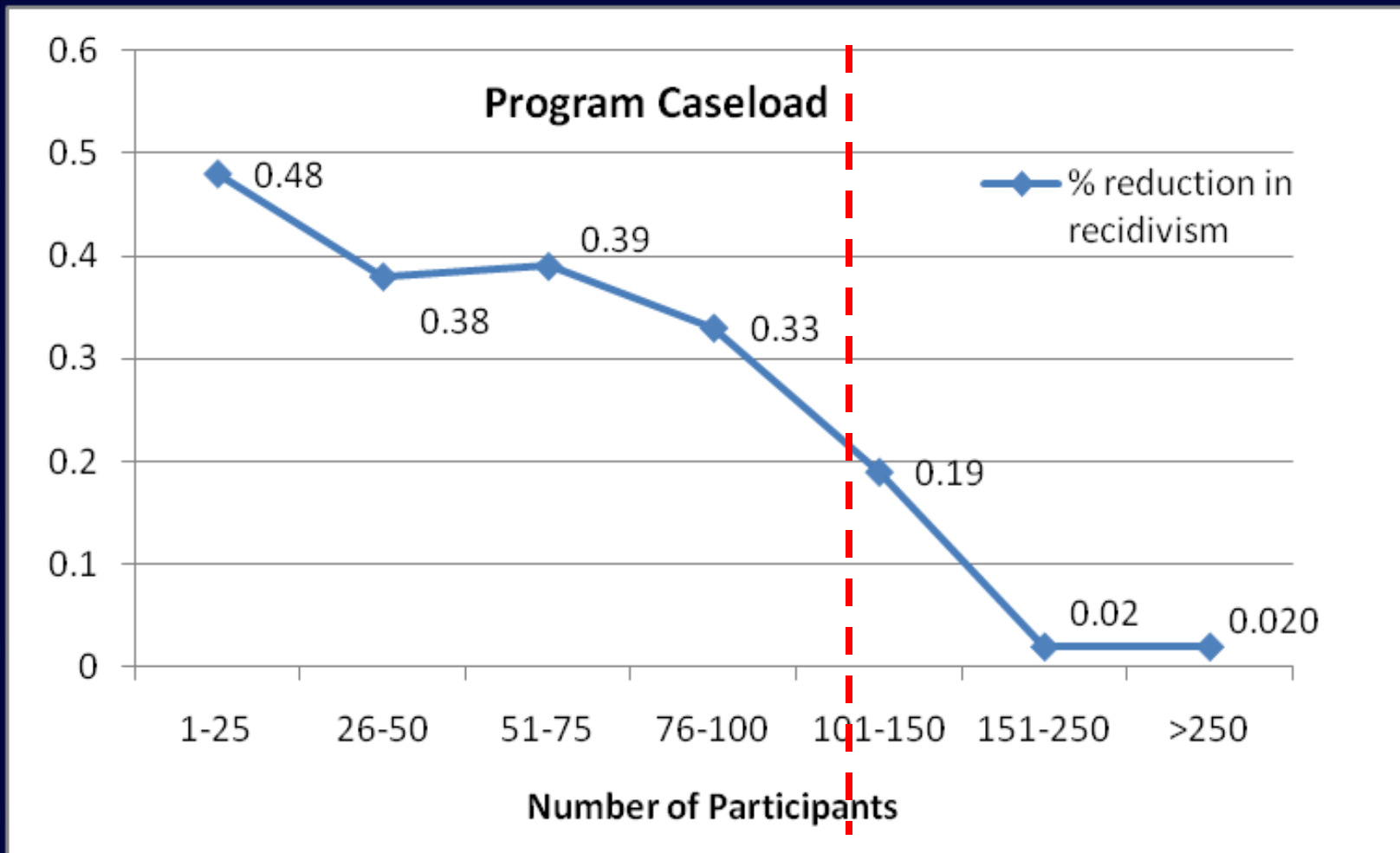


# **#1 Drug Courts with a Program Caseload (Number of Active Participants) of less than 125 had 567% Greater Reductions in Recidivism**



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

# Drug Courts with a Program Caseload (Number of Active Participants) of less than 125 had 567% reductions in recidivism



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

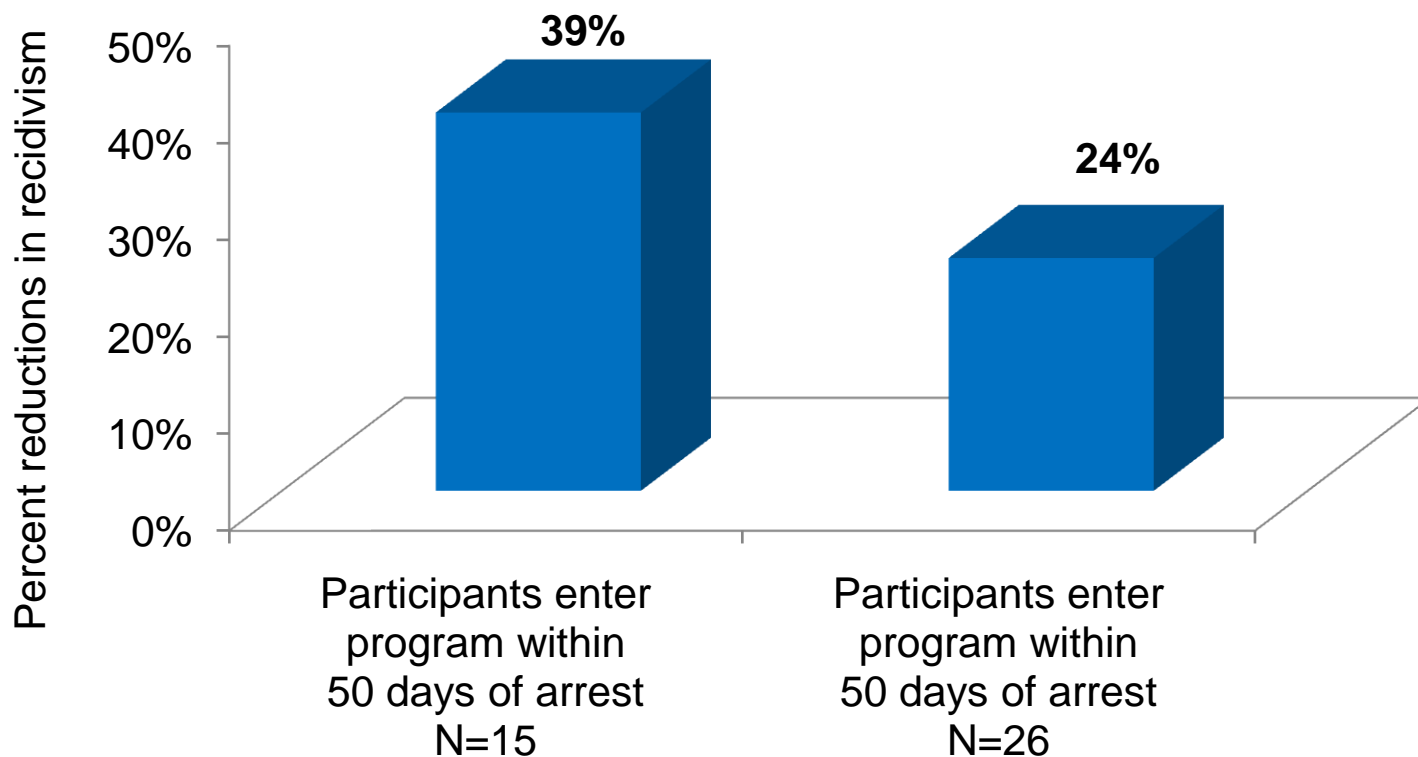
# Prompt Treatment

- Is it really important to get participants into the program quickly? And what is quickly?





# Drug Courts In Which Participants Entered the Program *within 50 Days of Arrest* Had 63% Greater Reductions in Recidivism



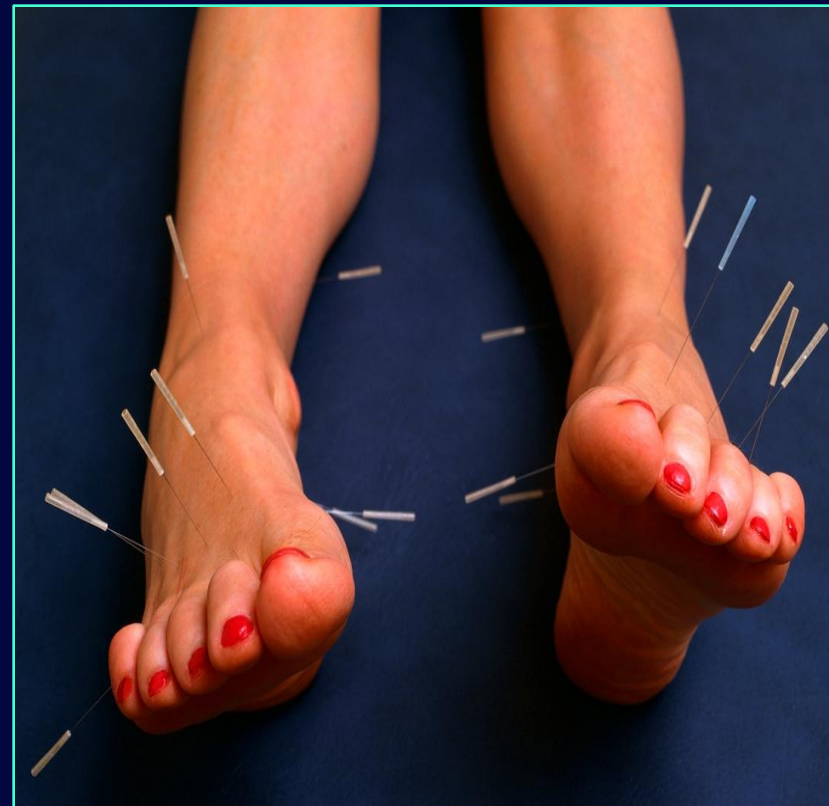
**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

# Key Component #4

*Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.*

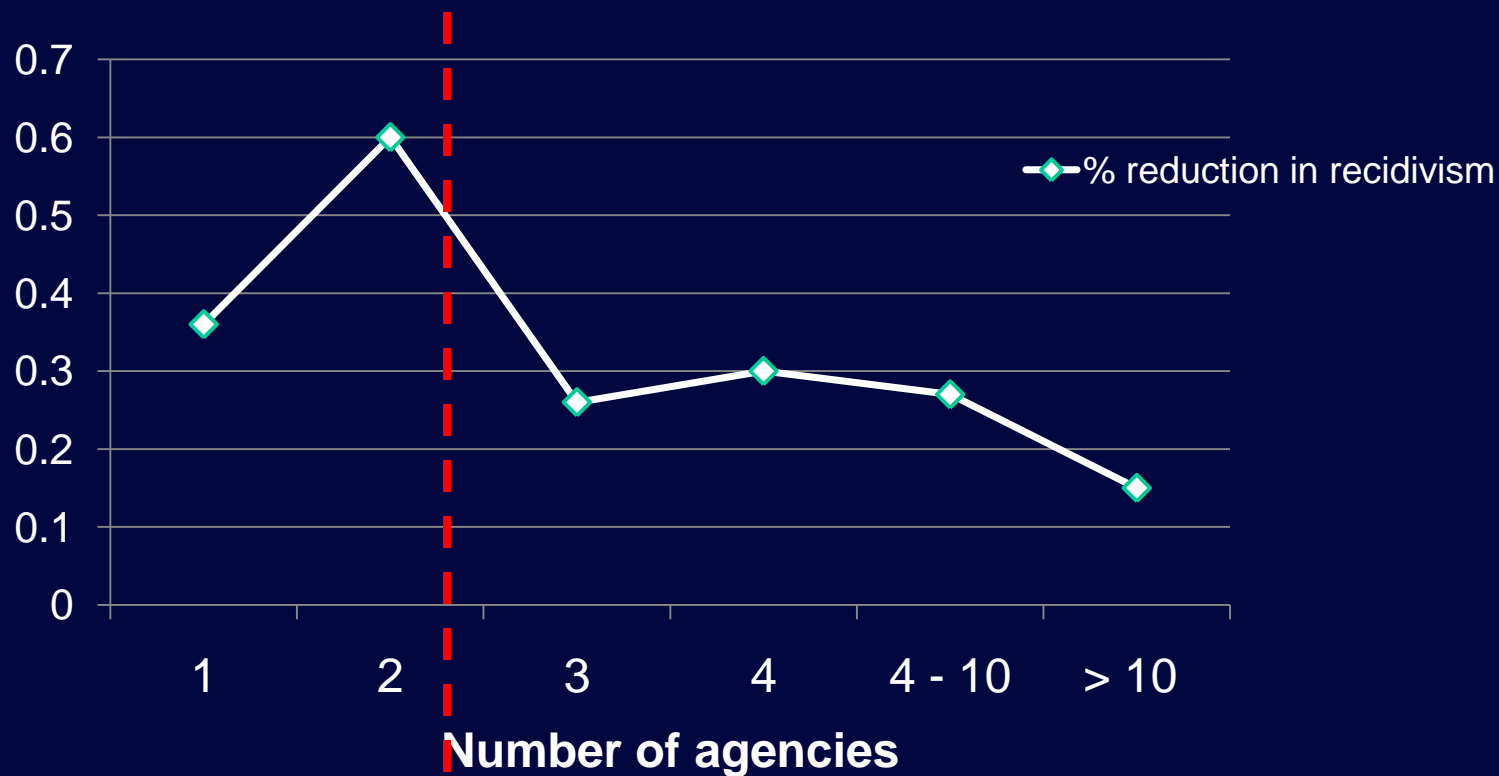
# Effective Treatment

- Is it better to have a single treatment agency or to have multiple treatment options?
- How important is relapse prevention?



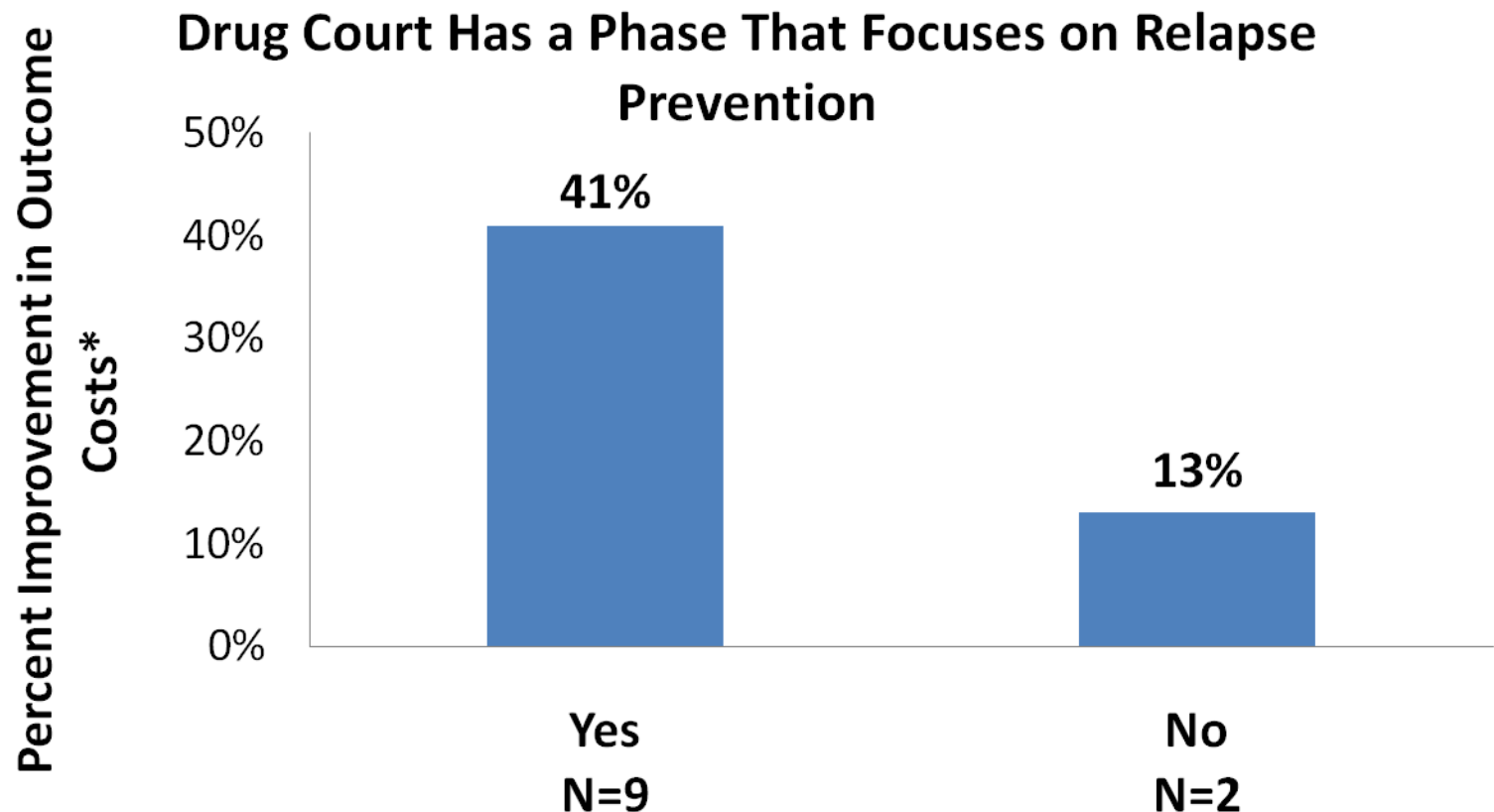
# Drug Courts That Used One or Two Primary Treatment Agencies Had 76% Greater Reductions in Recidivism

Fewer treatment providers is related to greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$

# Drug Courts That Included a Phase Focusing on Relapse Prevention Had Over 3 Times Greater Savings



\* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

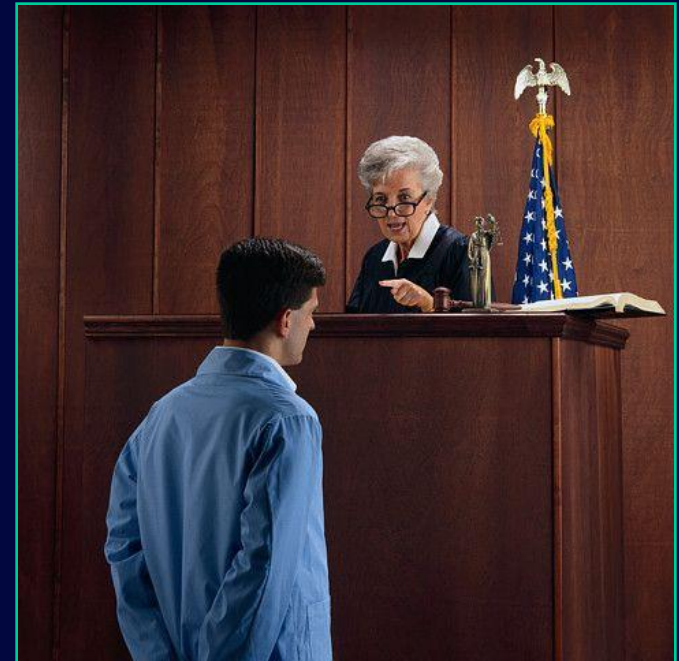
**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

# Key Component #7

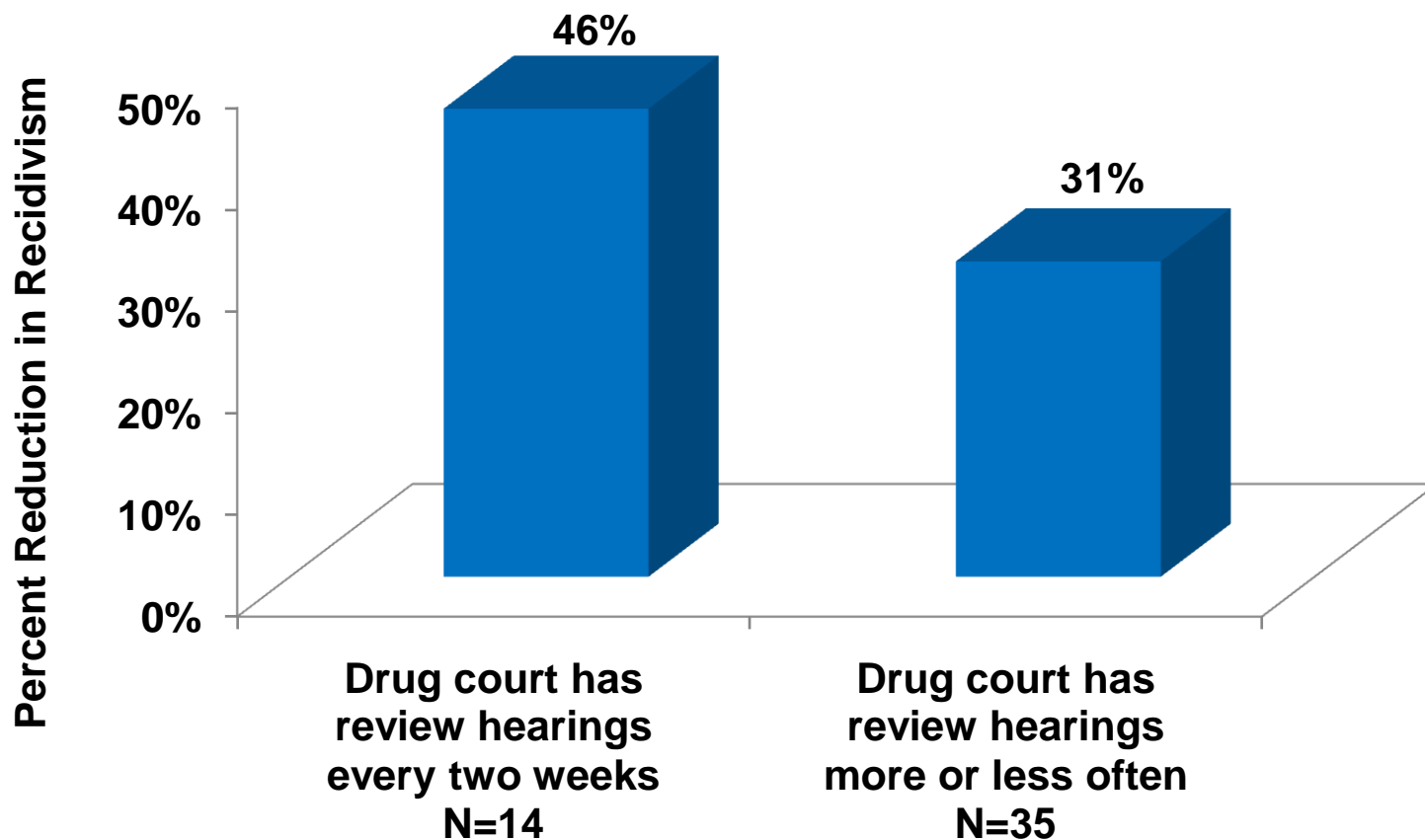
*“Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.”*

# The Judge

- How often should participants appear before the judge?
- How long should the judge stay on the drug court bench? Is longevity better or is it better to rotate regularly?



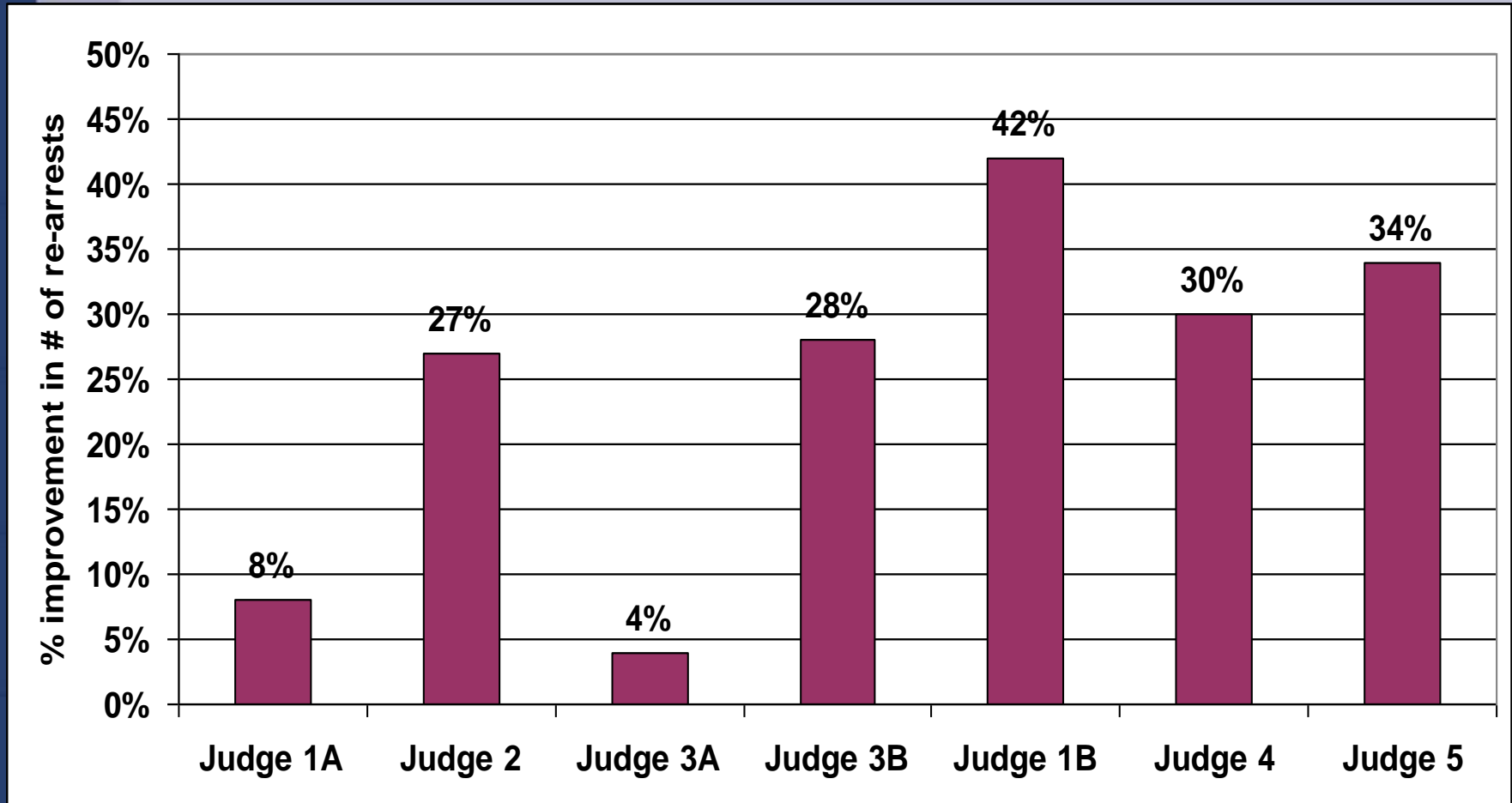
# Drug Courts That Held Status Hearings Every 2 Weeks During Phase 1 Had 50% Greater Reductions in Recidivism



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .1$**

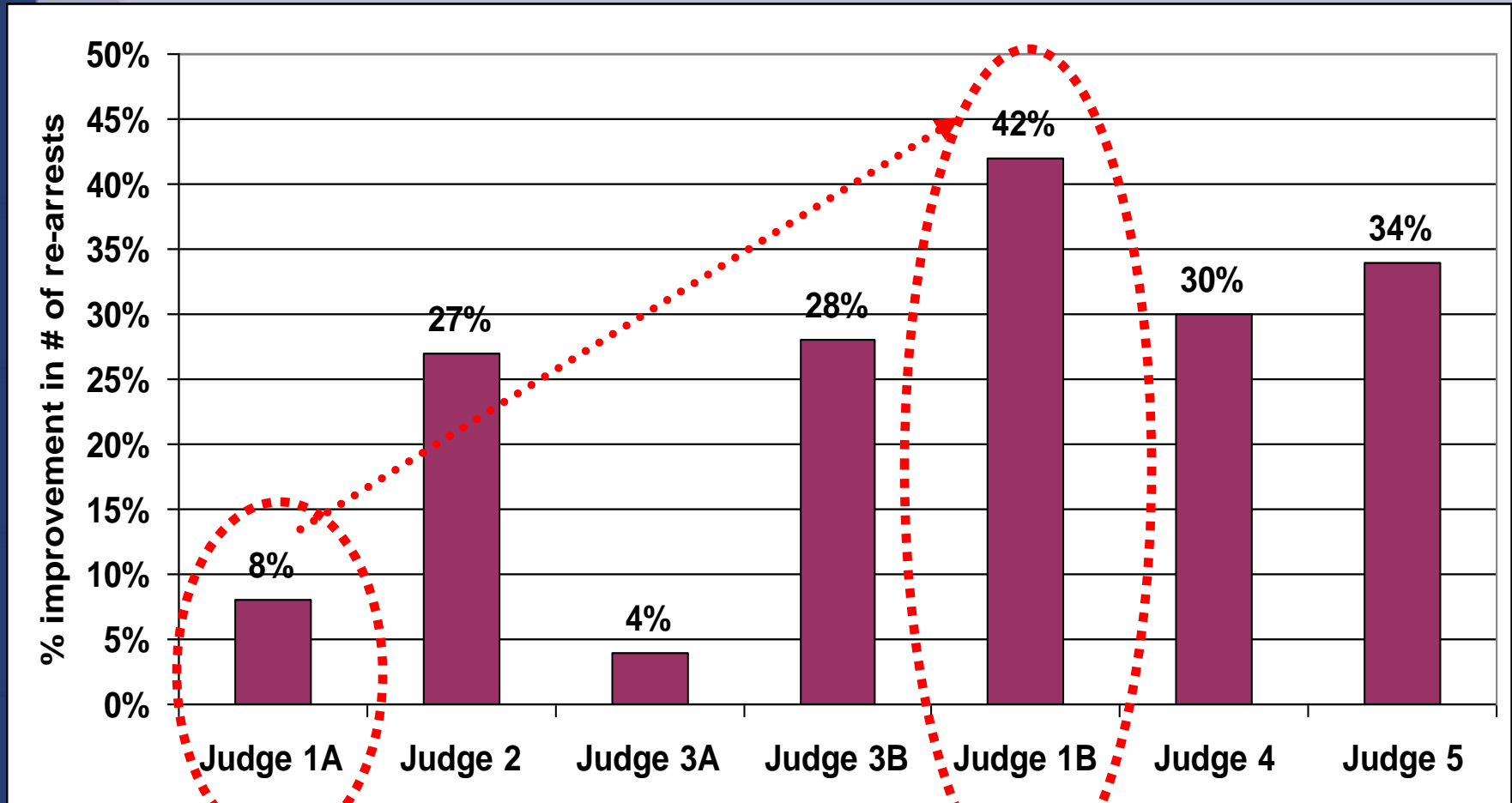


# The Longer the Judge Spent on the Drug Court Bench, the Better the Client Outcomes



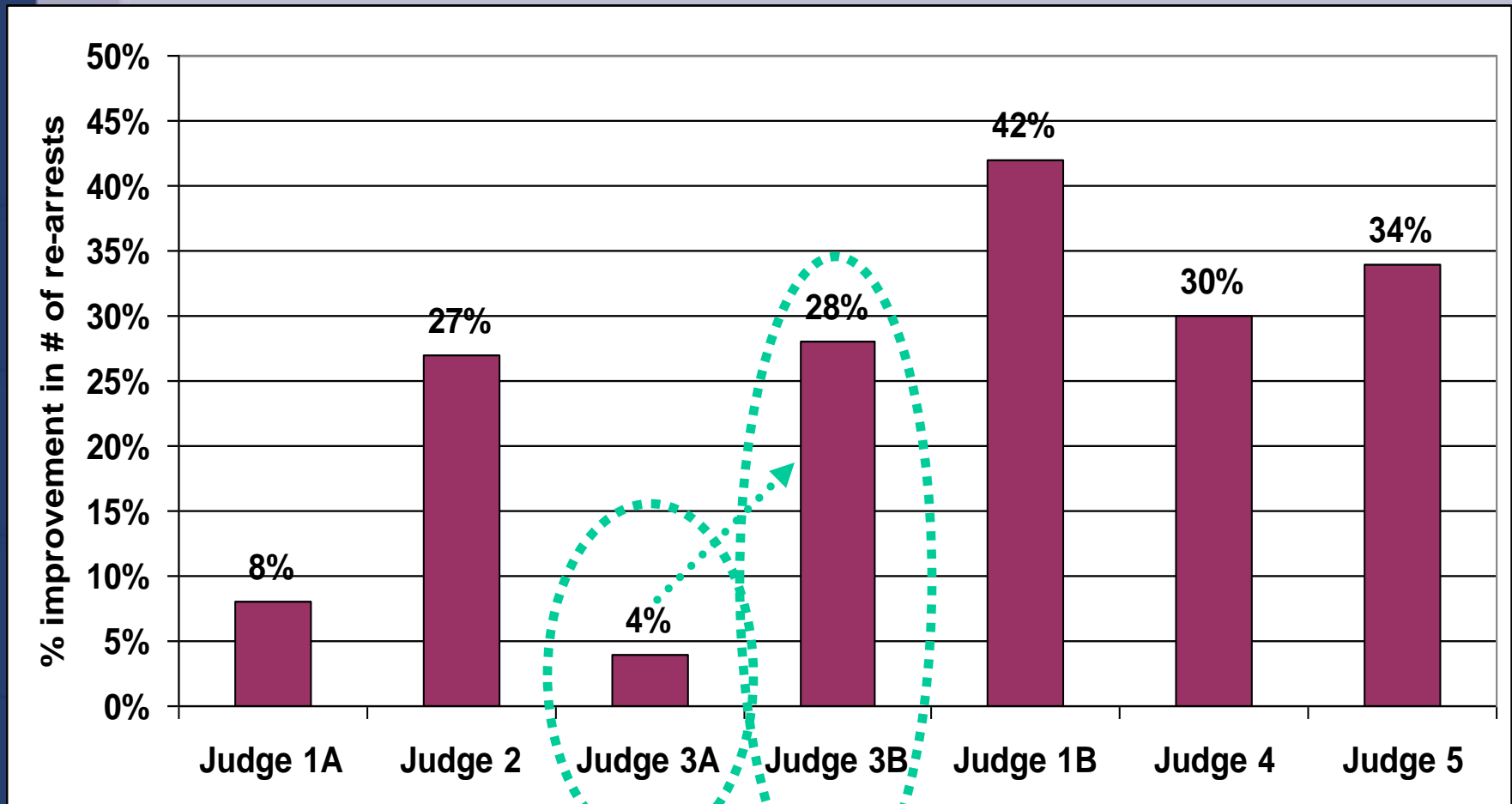
➤ **Different judges had different impacts on recidivism**

# The Longer the Judge Spent on the Drug Court Bench, the Better the Client Outcomes



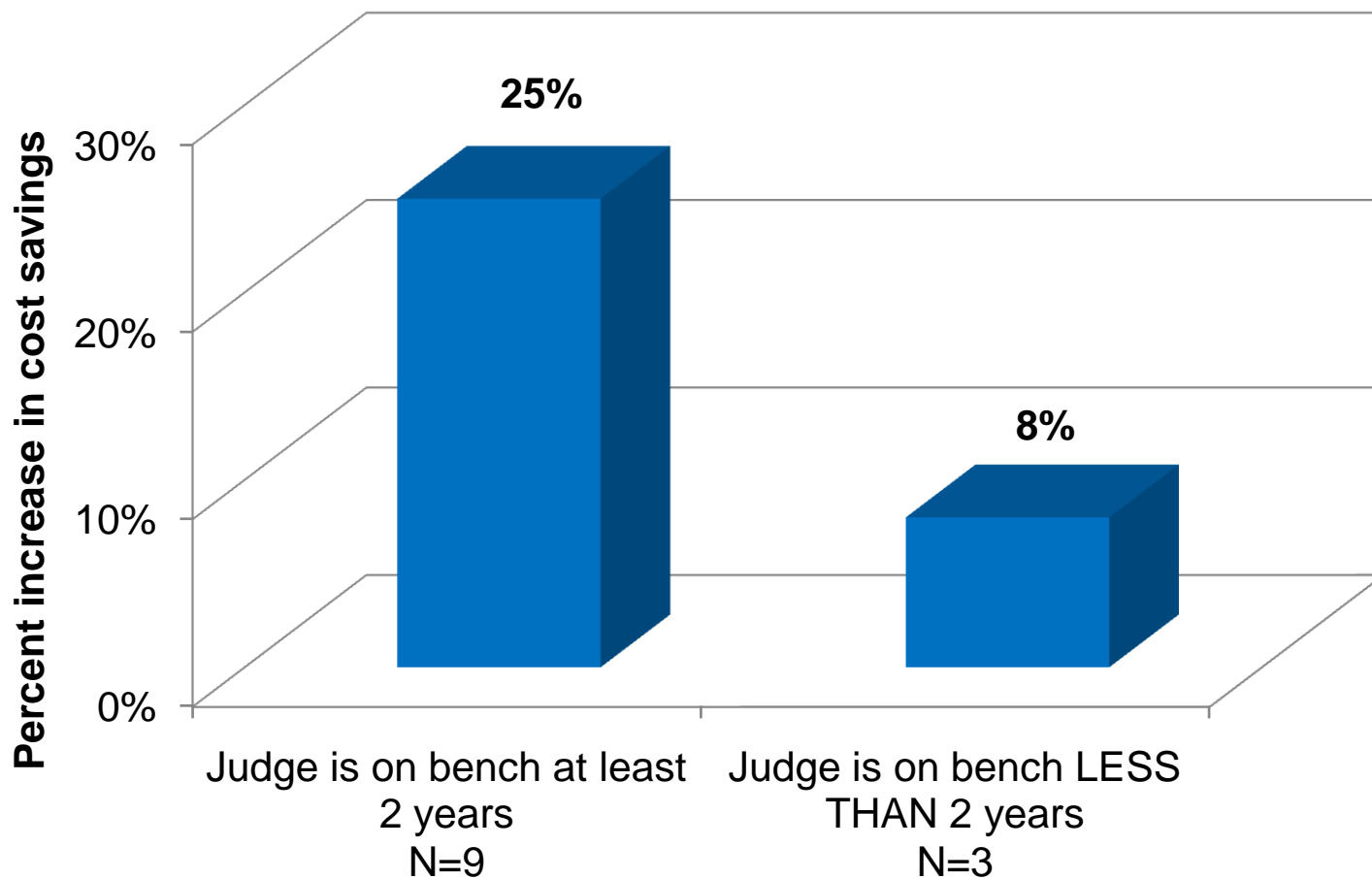
- Different judges had different impacts on recidivism
- **Judges did better their second time**

# The Longer the Judge Spent on the Drug Court Bench, the Better the Client Outcomes



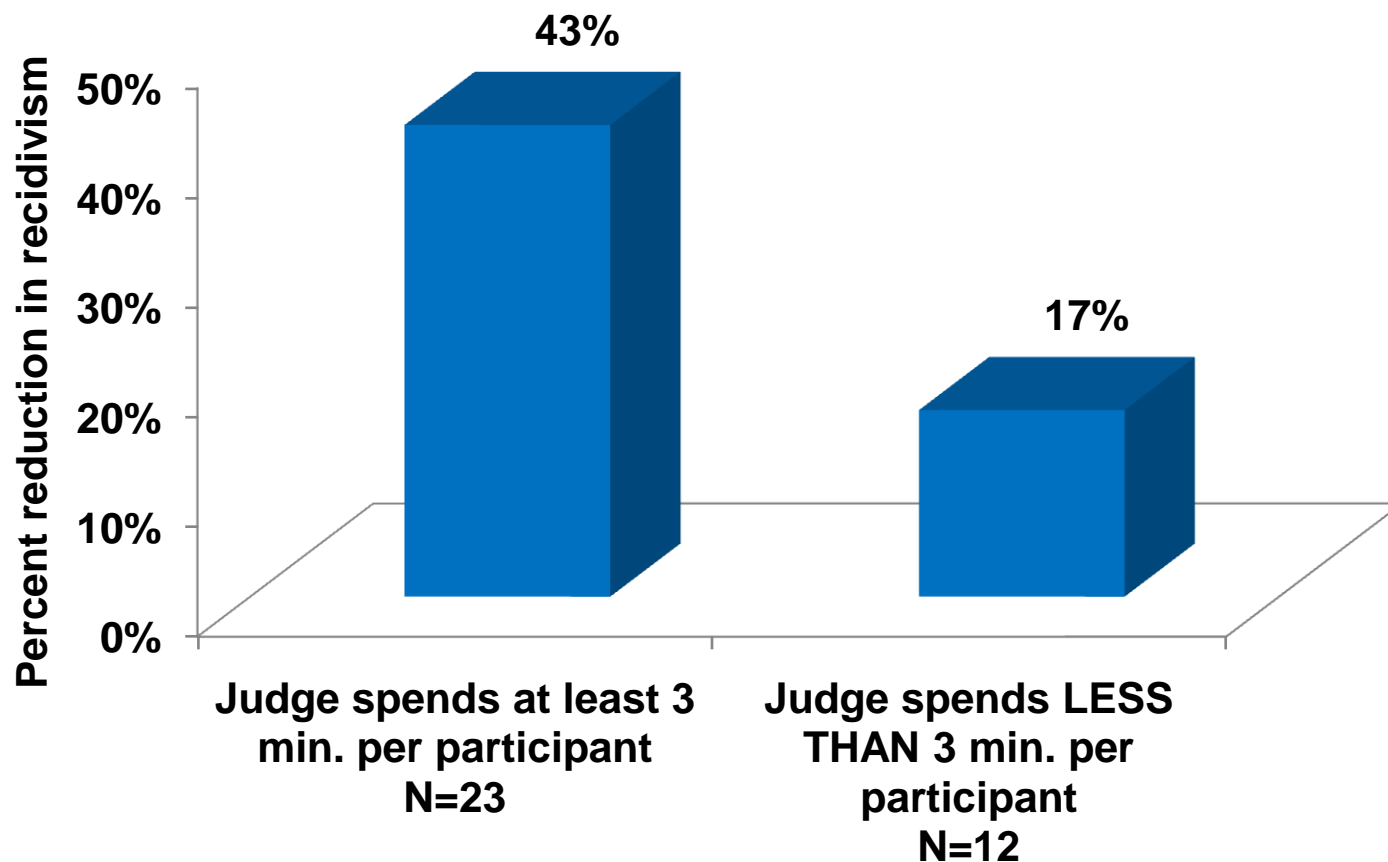
- Different judges had different impacts on recidivism
- **Judges did better their second time**

# Drug Courts That Have Judges Stay Longer Than Two Years Had 3 Times Greater Cost Savings



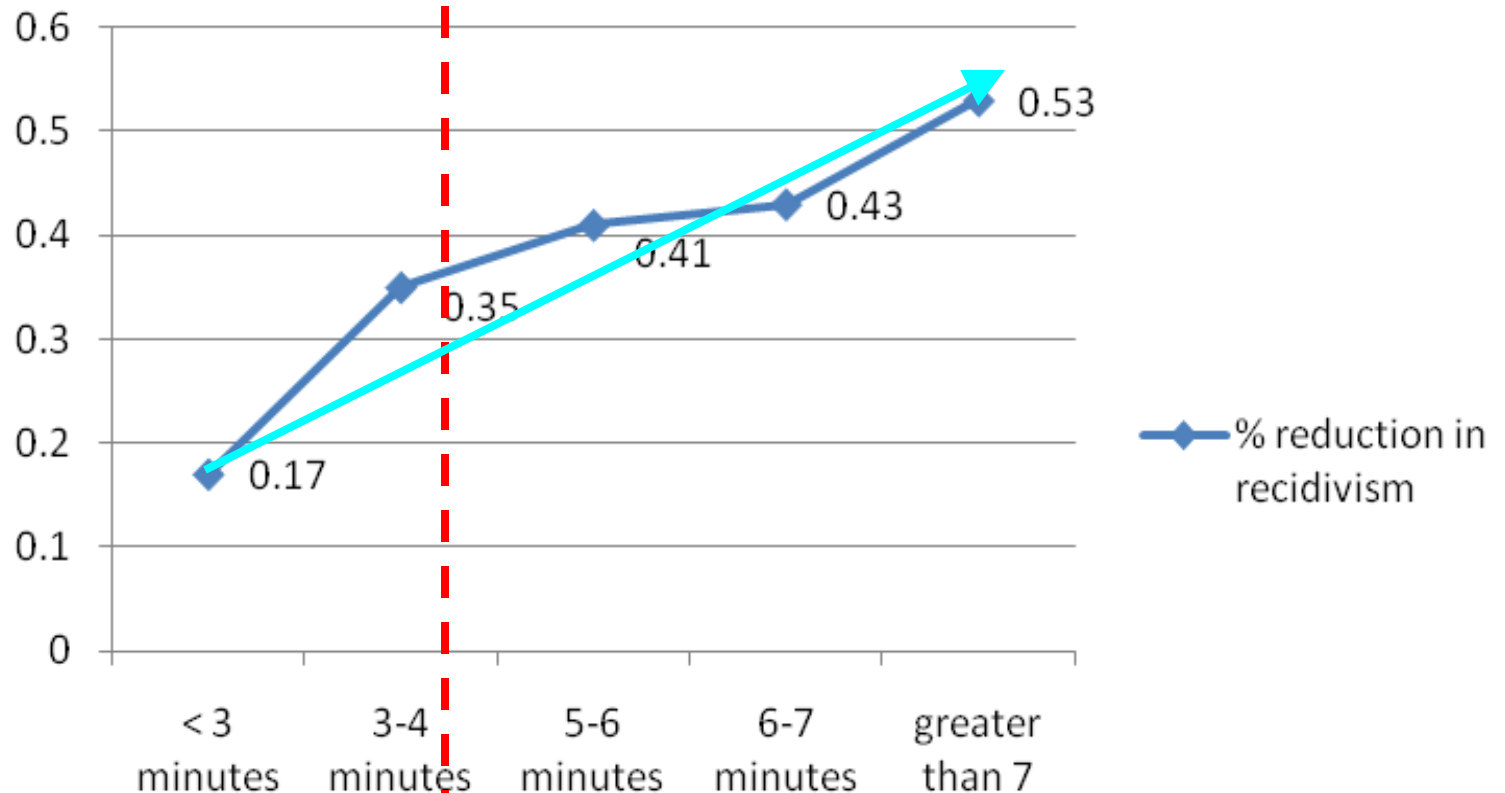
**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

## Drug Courts Where the Judge Spends an Average of 3 Minutes or Greater per Participant During Court Hearings had 153% greater reductions in recidivism



Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$

# Drug Courts Where the Judge Spends an Average of 3 Minutes or Greater per Participant During Court Hearings had 153% greater reductions in recidivism



Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$

# Key Component #5

*“Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.”*

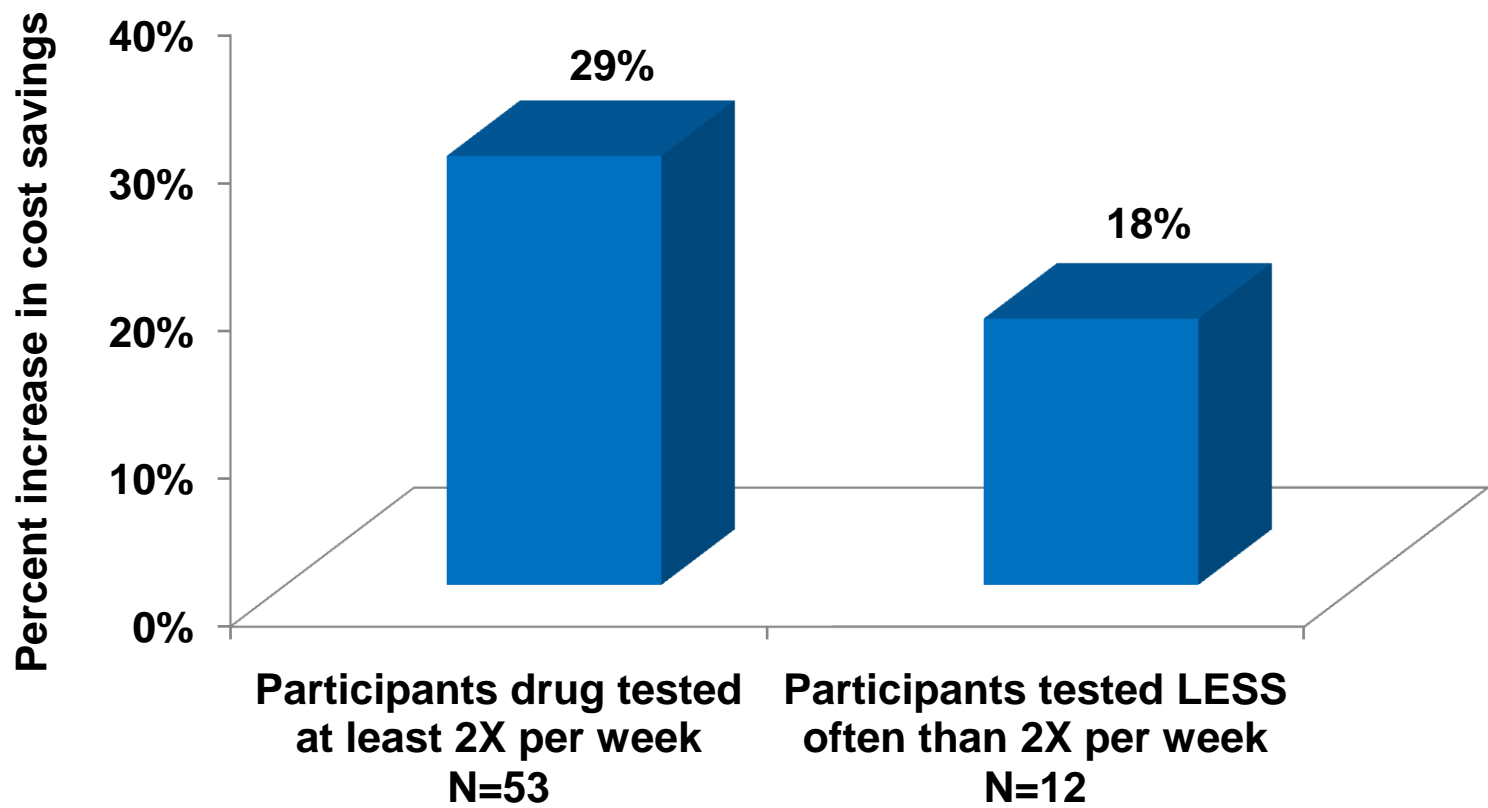
# Drug Testing

- T/F? Participants should be drug tested once per week
- T/F? Drug test results should be back to the team within 48 hours
- T/F? Participants should be clean at least 90 consecutive days before graduation



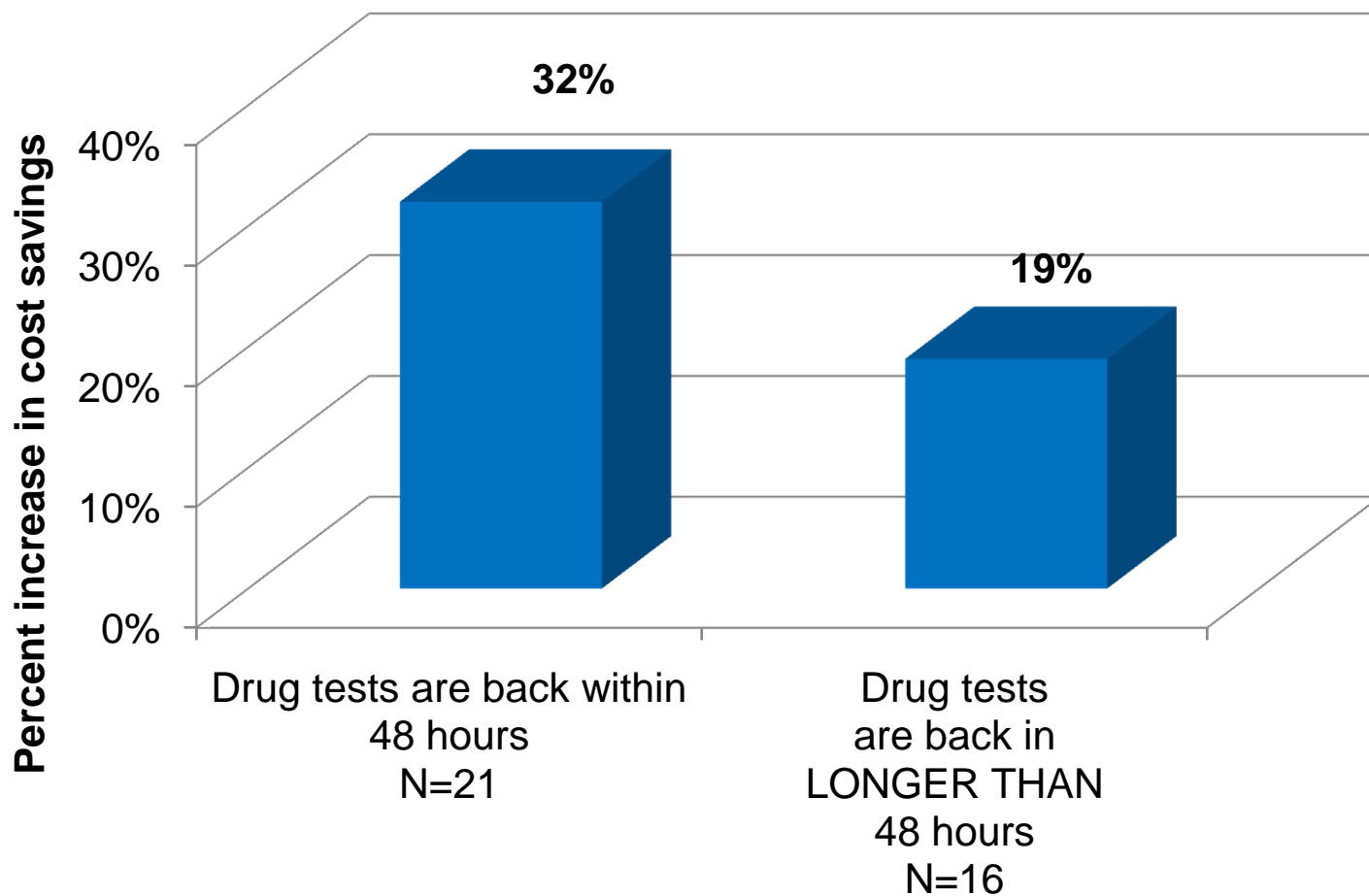


## Drug Courts Where Drug Tests are Collected at Least Two Times per Week In the First Phase had a 61% Higher Cost Savings



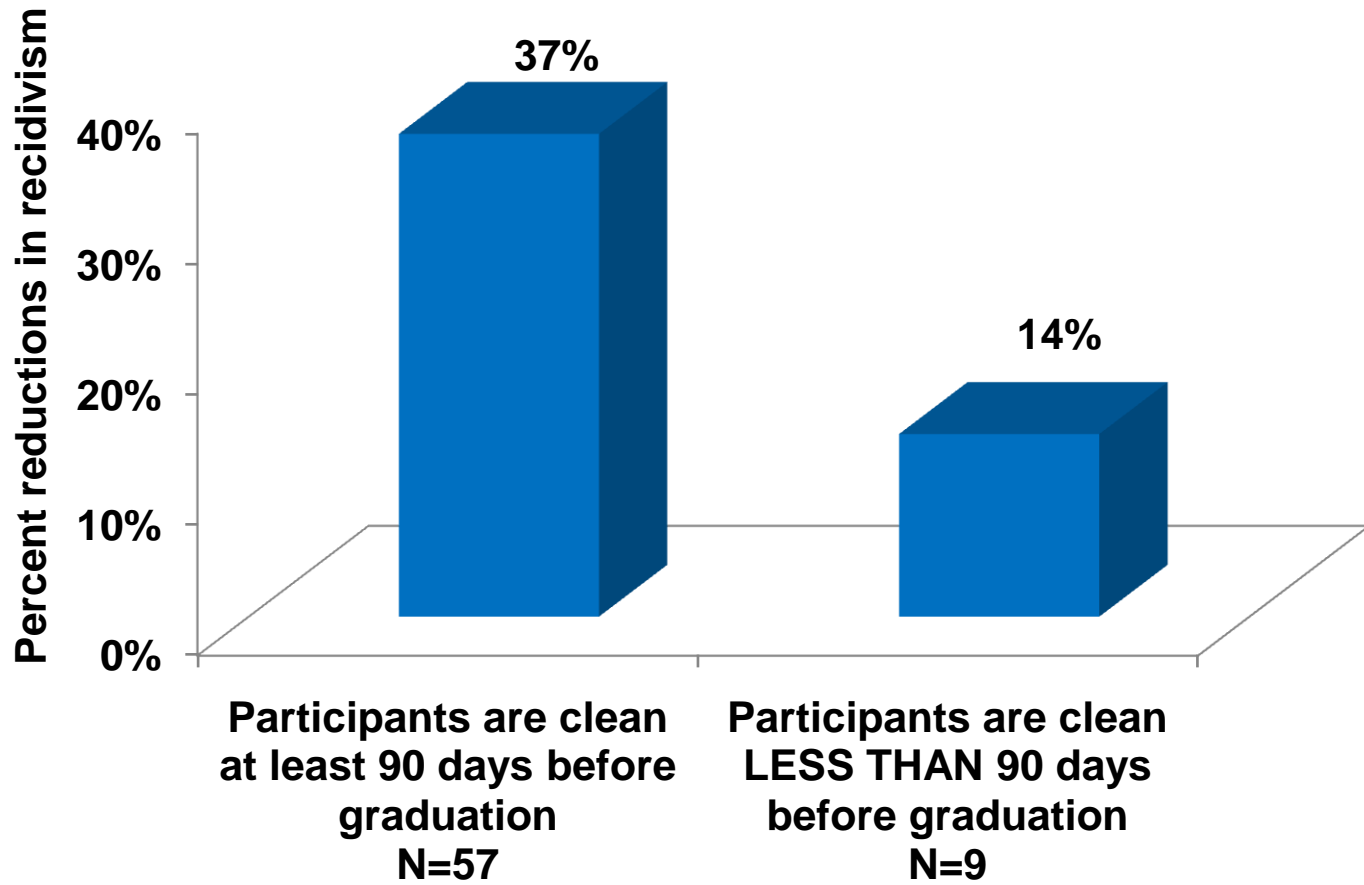
**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .15$  (Trend)**

# Drug Courts Where Drug Test Results are Back in 48 Hours or Less had 68% Higher Cost Savings



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

**#2 Drug Courts Where Participants are expected to have greater than 90 consecutive days clean before graduation had 164% greater reductions in recidivism**



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .15$  (Trend)**

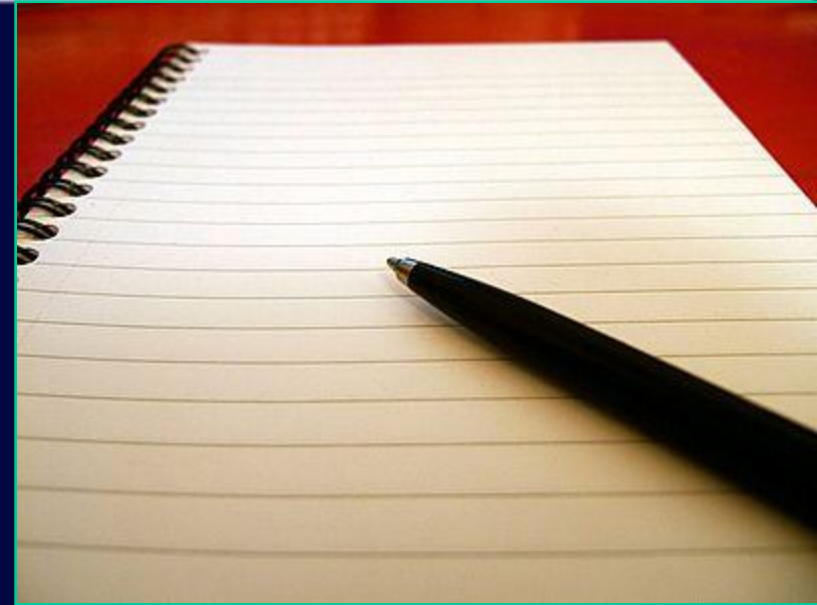
# Key Component #6

*“Drug courts establish a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior . . .*

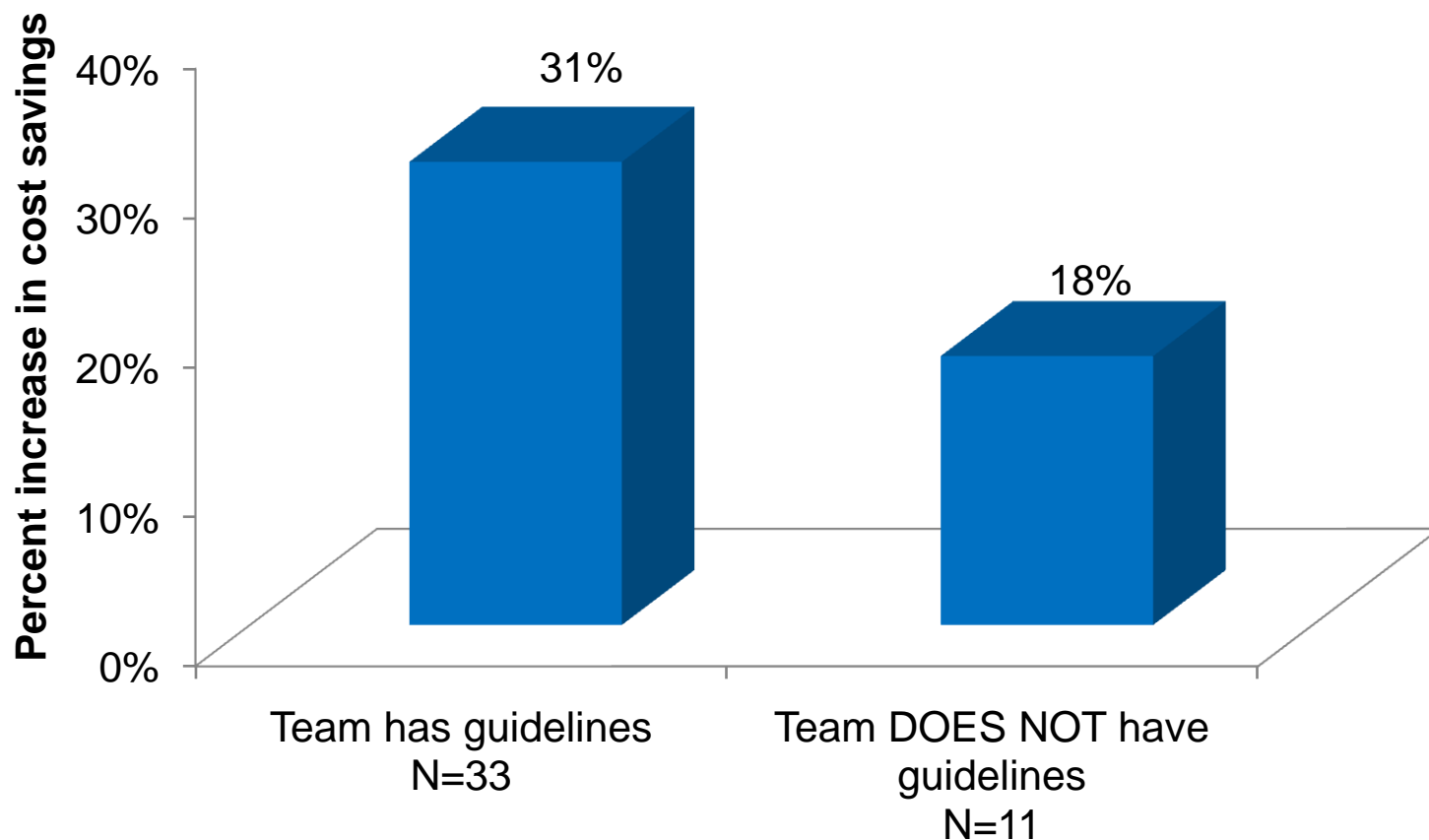
*Reponses to or sanctions for noncompliance might include . . . escalating periods of jail confinement”*

# Sanction and Incentive Guidelines and Prompt Responses

- **T/F? Guidelines on team responses to client behavior does not need to be written if the team knows the sanctions schedule.**
- **T/F? A jail sanction is most effective if it is 6 days or less**
- **For sanctions, how swift is swift enough?**

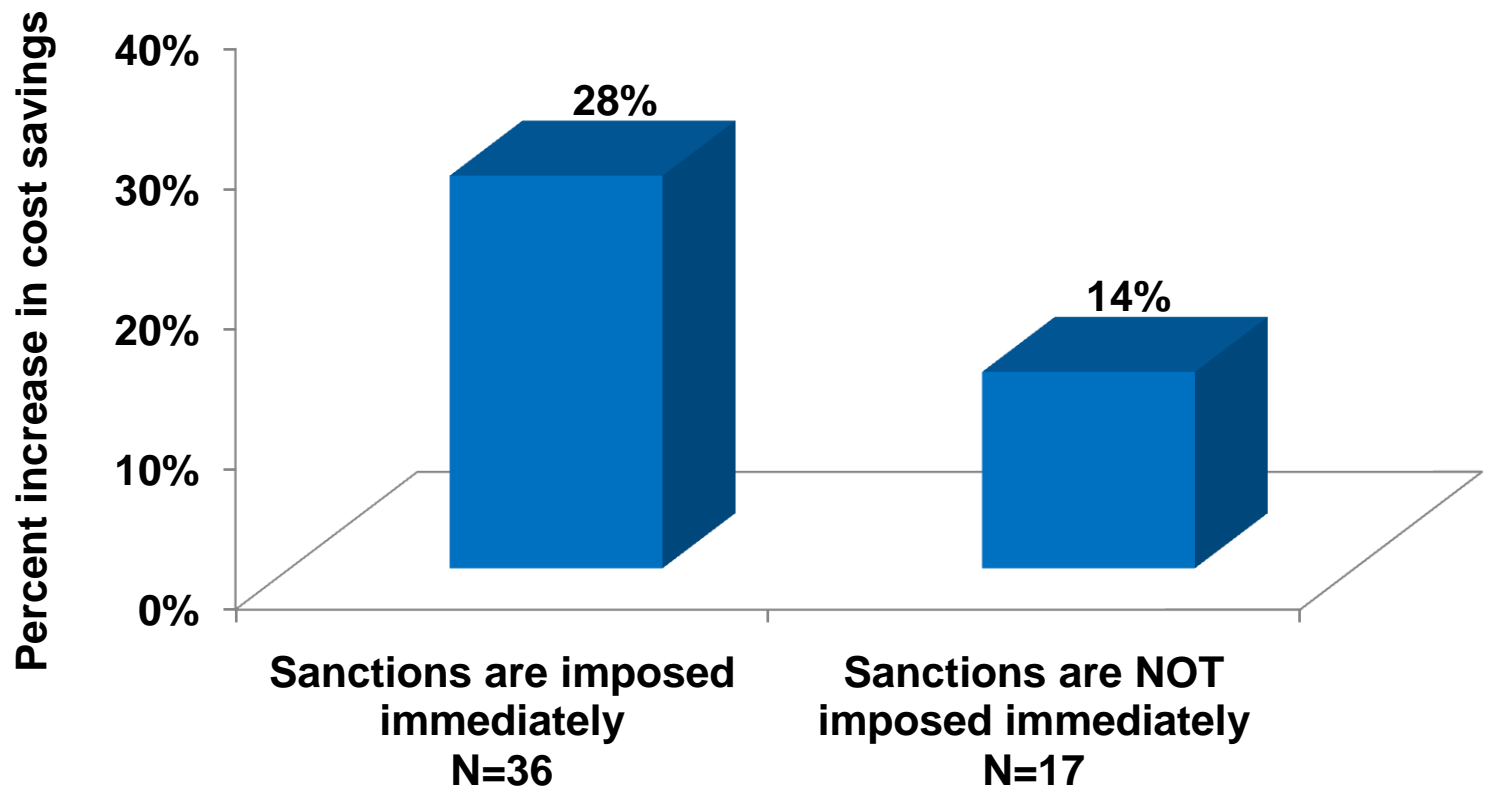


# Drug Courts Where Team Members are Given a Copy of Written Guidelines For Sanctions And Rewards Had 72% Higher Cost Savings



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .15$  (Trend)**

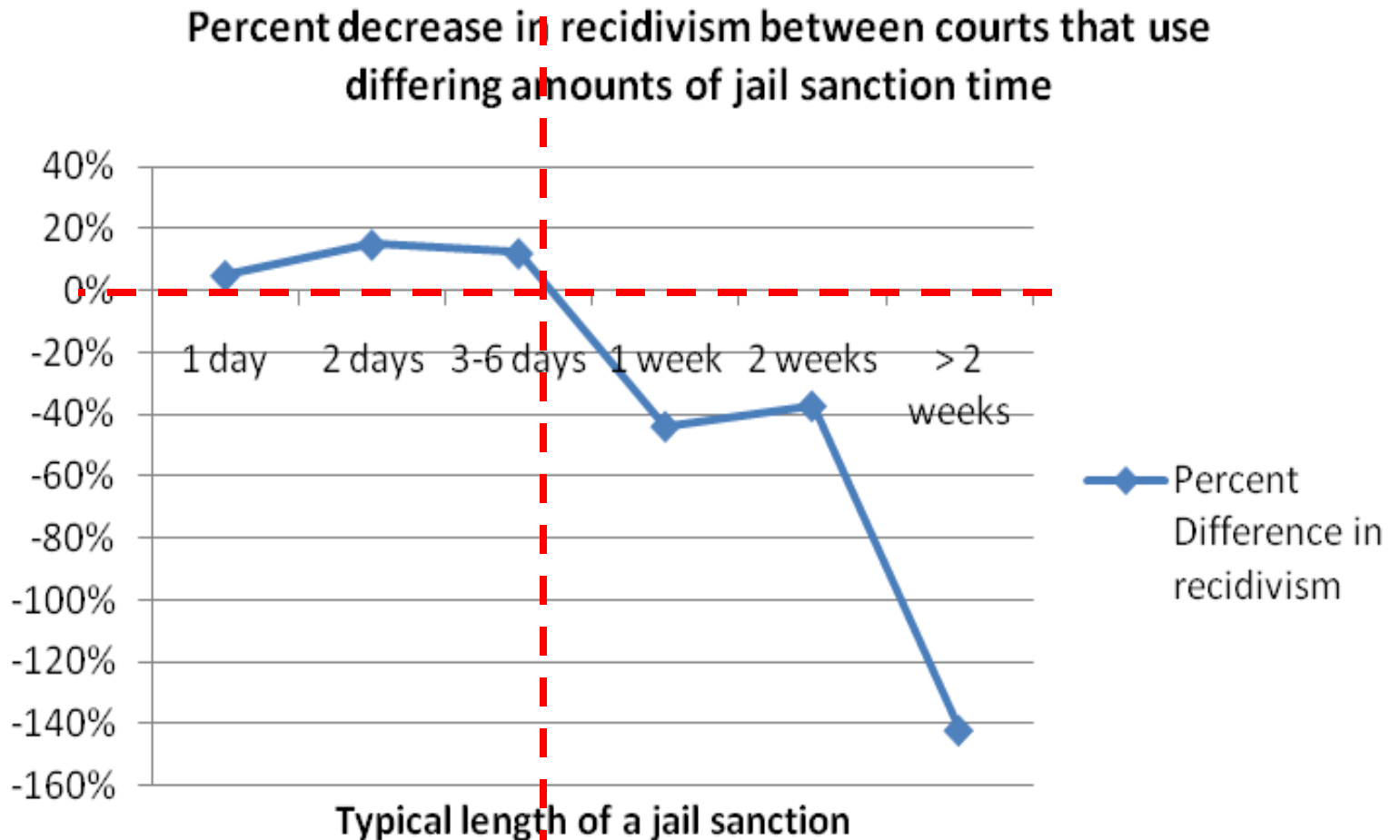
# Drug Courts Where Sanctions Are Imposed Immediately After Non-compliant Behavior had a 100% Increase in Cost Savings



Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$

Note 2: Immediately = Before the next regular court hearing (or one week or less to court hearing)

# Courts that use jail greater than 6 days have **worse** (higher) recidivism





# Key Component #9

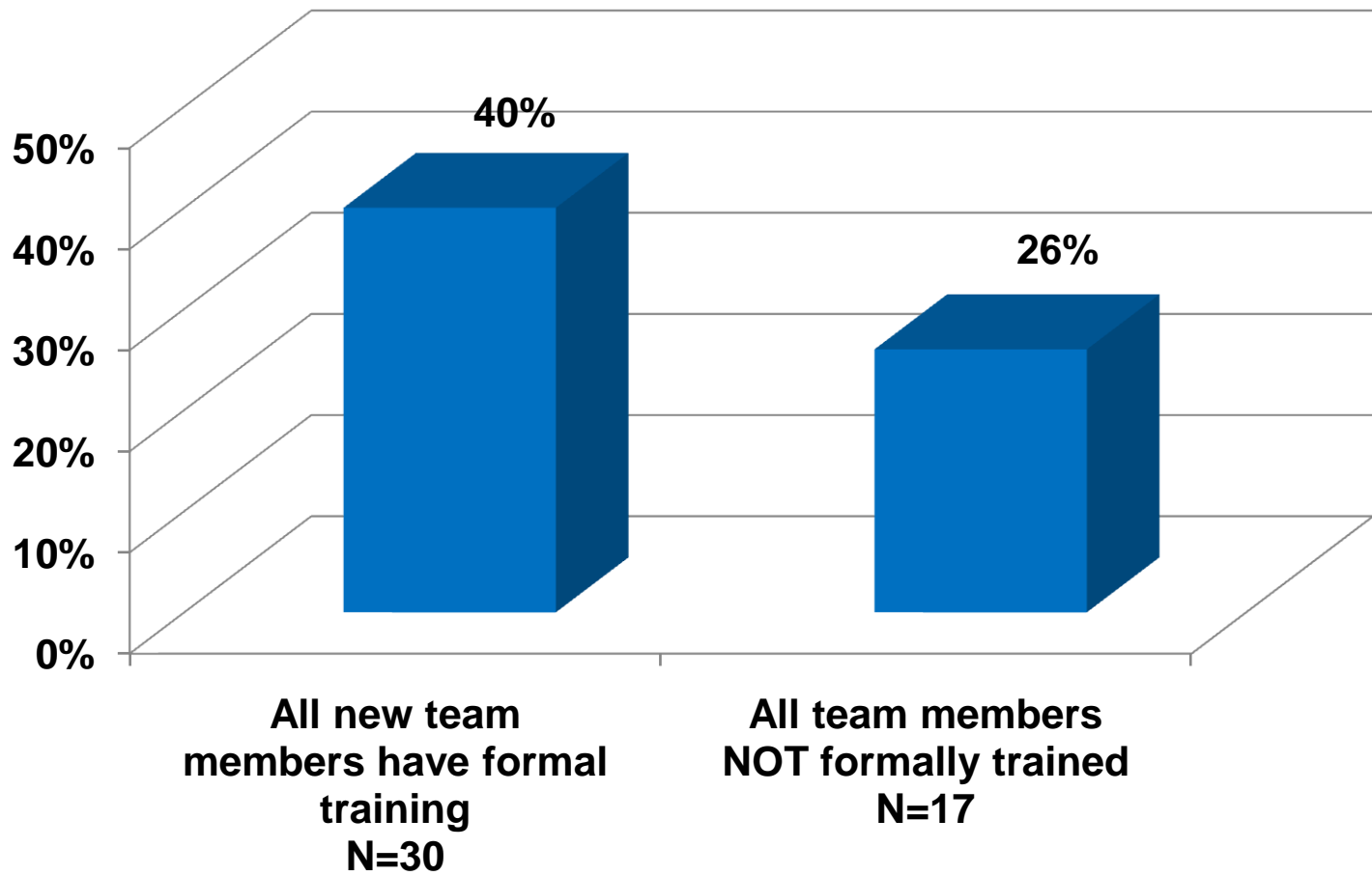
*“Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.”*

# Training

- T/F? Only certain team members need formal training
- Who should be trained?
- *When* should team members get trained?

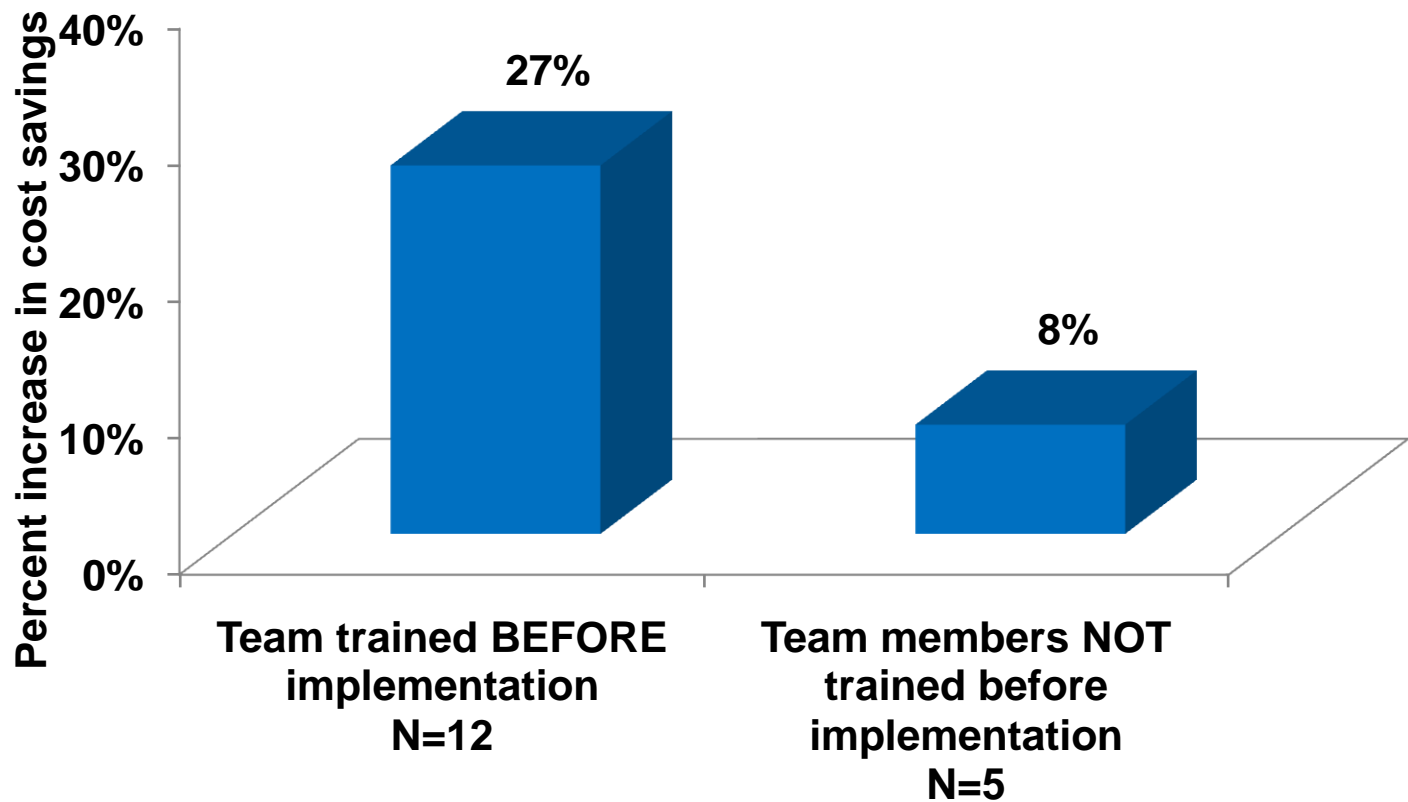


# Drug Courts That Provided Formal Training for ALL New Team Members Had 57% Greater Reductions in Recidivism



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

## Drug Courts That Received Training Prior to Implementation Had 238% Higher Cost Savings



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

# Key Component #8

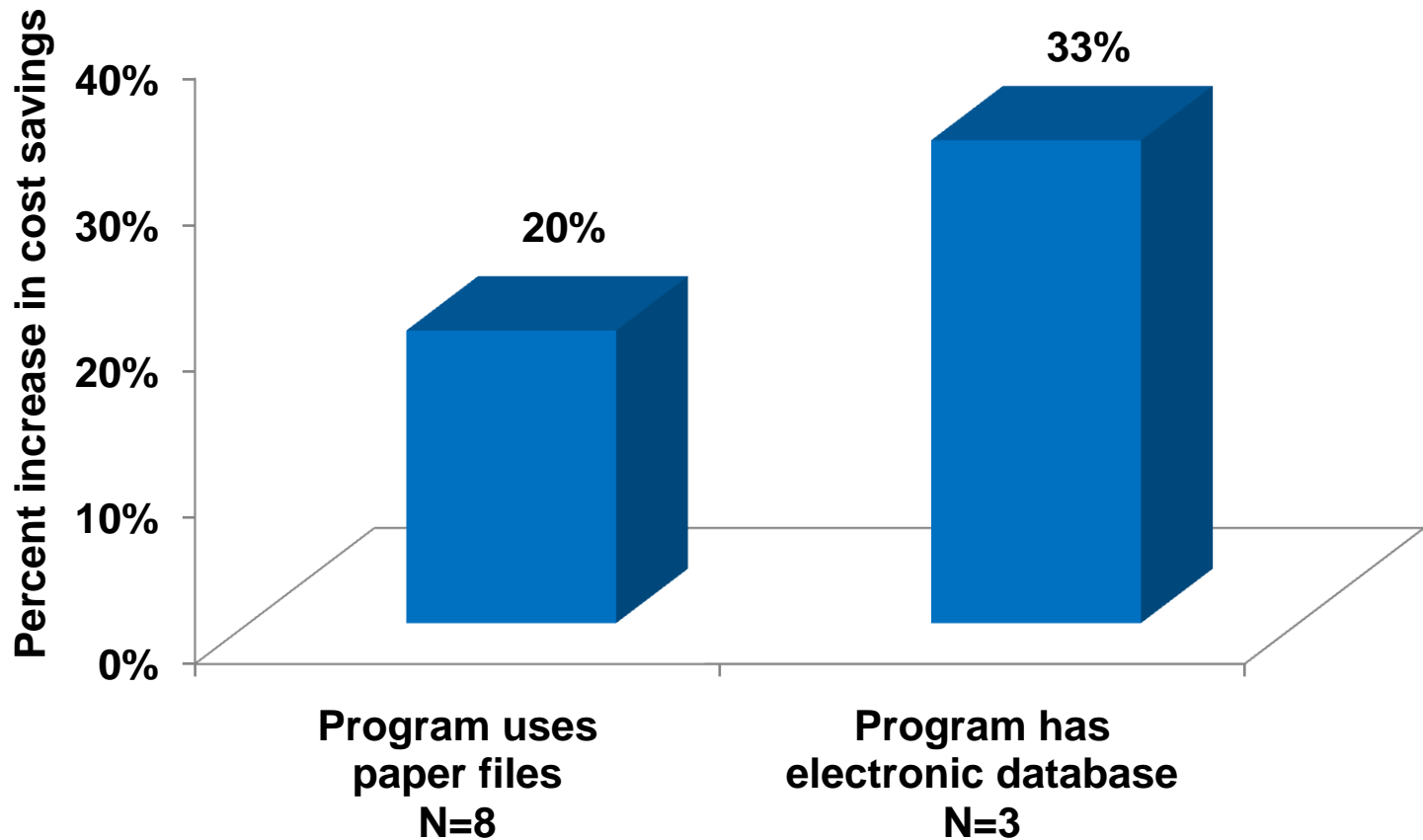
*“Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.”*

# Monitoring and Evaluation

- **T/F? Keeping data in paper files works just as well as a database as long as you are keeping data**
- **T/F? Drug courts that review program stats have higher cost savings**
- **Do you really need an evaluation? What do you get out of it?**

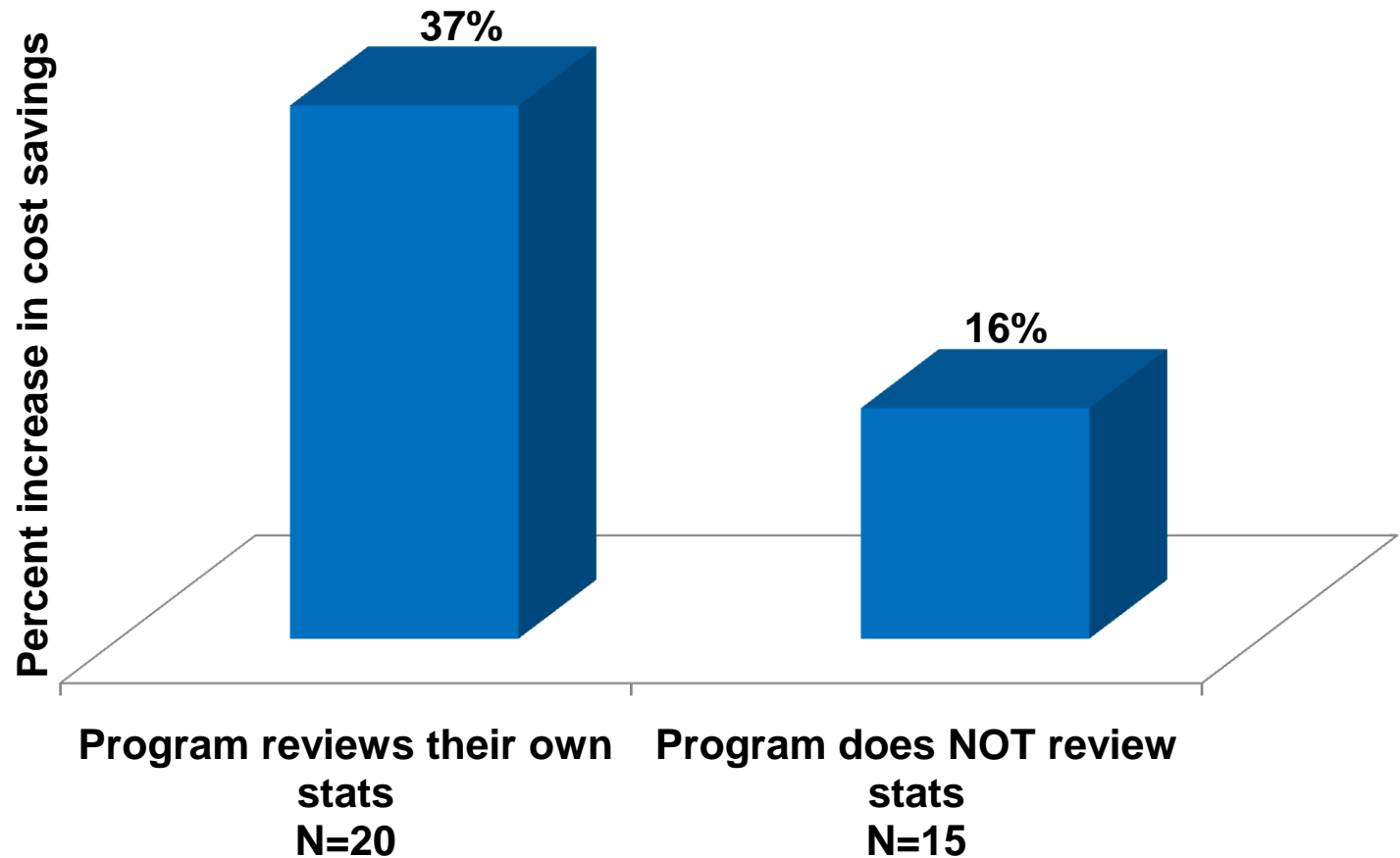


## Drug Courts That Used Paper Files Rather Than Electronic Databases Had 65% LESS Savings



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

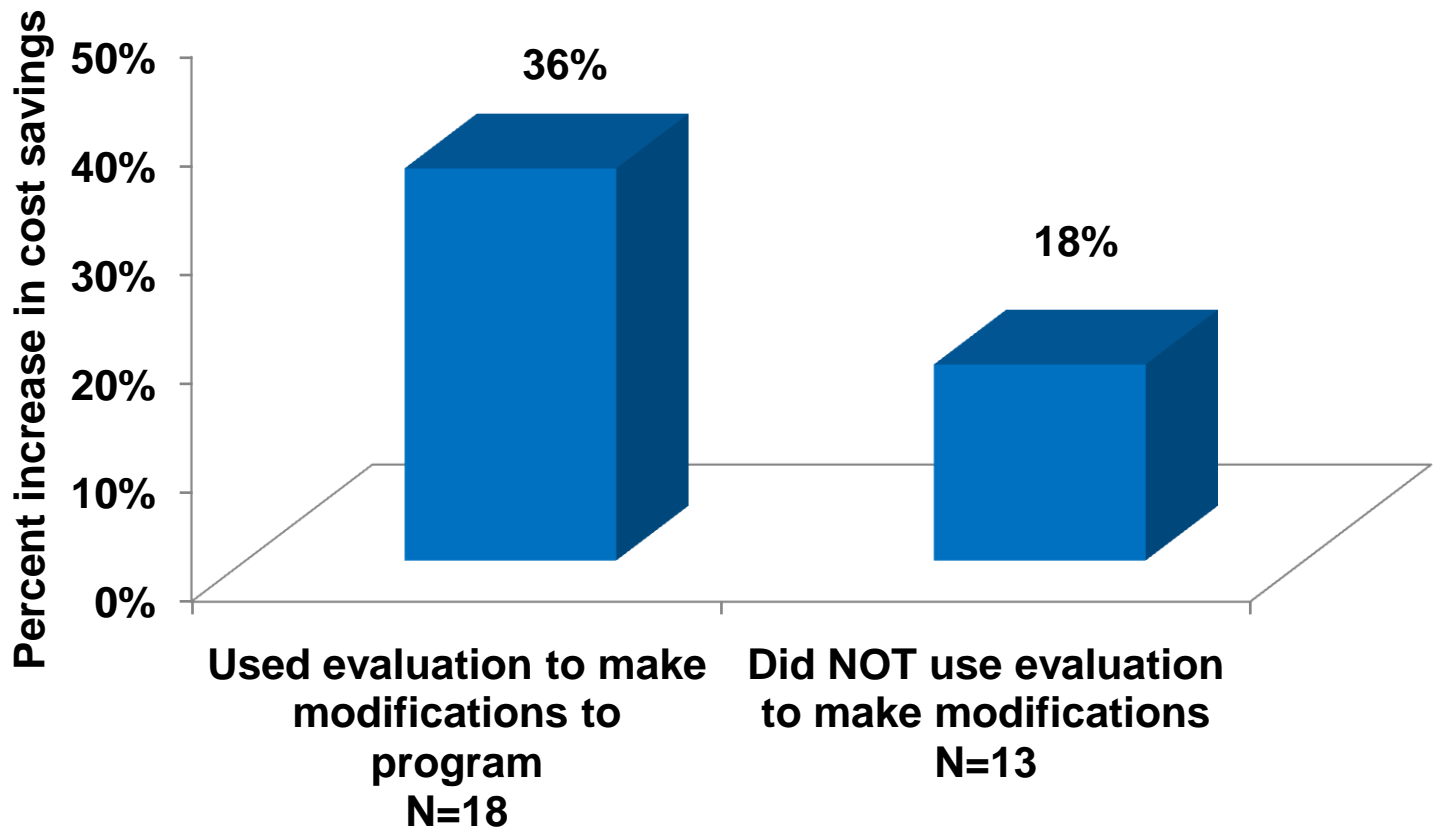
# **#1 Drug Courts Where Review of The Data and Stats Has Led to Modifications in Drug Court Operations had a 131% Increase in Cost Savings**



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**



## **#2 Drug Courts Where The Results Of Program Evaluations Have Led to Modifications In Drug Court Operations had a 100% Increase in Cost Savings**



**Note 1: Difference is significant at  $p < .05$**

# **Key Component #10**

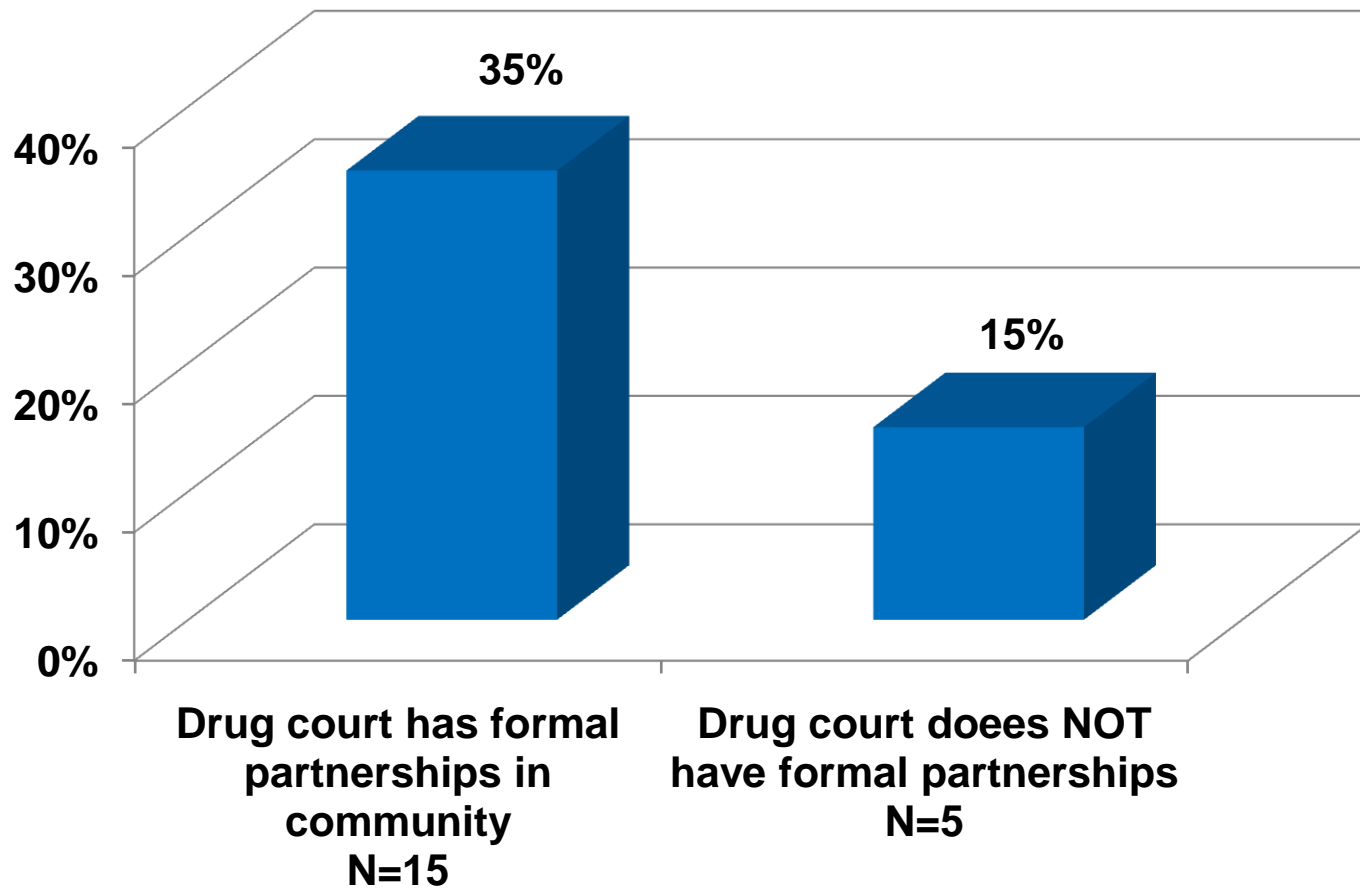
***“Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.”***

# Community Partnerships

- **How important are partnerships in the community for your drug court?**



# Drug Courts That Had Formal Partnerships with Community Organizations Had 133% Greater Cost Savings



**Note: Difference is significant as a trend at  $p < .15$**

# ***Recipes for Failure***

- **Water down the intervention**

- **Drop essential elements**

◀.....

“It’s not scalable”

- **Accept imitations**

◀.....

“We’re just like a drug court”



# ***Recipes for Failure***

- **Change course with new populations**



“It won’t work here”

“My clients are different”

# ***Recipes for Failure***

- **Stepped Care**

- **Start with less and ratchet up if you need to**

**“It’s more  
economical”**

**“It’s less  
burdensome  
on clients”**



# ***Recipes for Failure***

- **Target the wrong people**

- **1st-time offenders**
- **Low risk and low needs**

..... “It’s safer”

..... “It’s a form of prevention”

..... “They’re more deserving”





# ***Recipe for Success***

- Send us the high-value cases
- Fidelity to the *10 Key Components* until proven otherwise!
- Ongoing judicial authority
- Inter-agency team approach
- Branching model
  - Get it right the first time

